

Keeping in Touch

June 1998

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

UFMCC Leadership Conference Focuses on Training for Excellence

High quality ministry is possible for a church of any size! 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference, "Excellence in Ministry," to be held August 13-16 in Phoenix, Arizona, will be one of the best opportunities to learn new information and acquire tools to improve and develop your local church ministry. Leadership Conference, designed to equip clergy and lay leaders of MCC through workshops, training sessions, worship and networking, will focus on the vital UFMCC ministry priority of "Benchmarks of Excellence."

UP FRONT
Nathan Meckley

The UFMCC Strategic Growth Initiative Team has identified eight benchmark categories – profiles of superior quality in functional areas common to all churches – and is developing diagnostic tools and practical resources that your church can use in its quest for quality. At Leadership Conference a keynote plenary will introduce benchmarking and three workshop tracks will focus on the key areas of Excellence in Worship, Excellence in Discipleship and Excellence in Stewardship. In each of these benchmark categories an introductory workshop will provide details on identifying, diagnosing and resourcing that ministry area and will be followed by several workshops specifically related to the topic.

Excellence in Worship will include:
"Celebrative Worship: Providing an Experience of Transformation"
"Celebration Styles: Approaches to Worship in MCC"
"Team Worship Planning"
"Choir Growth"
"Music That Witnesses"

Excellence in Discipleship:
"Effective Discipleship: Building Up the Body of Christ"
"Evangelism for the 21st Century Church: Attracting Seekers to Your Congregation"
"The Newcomer's Path to Discovery and Discipleship"
"Building Successful Small Groups"
"Creating Excellence in Multi-Cultural Ministry"

Excellence in Stewardship:
"Wholistic Stewardship: Building a Culture of Generosity"

"Covenant Keepers: A Program for Comprehensive Stewardship"
"Financial Development for Local Churches"
"Team Ministry in the 21st Century Church"
"Spiritual Gifts: A Model for Mobilizing Ministry"

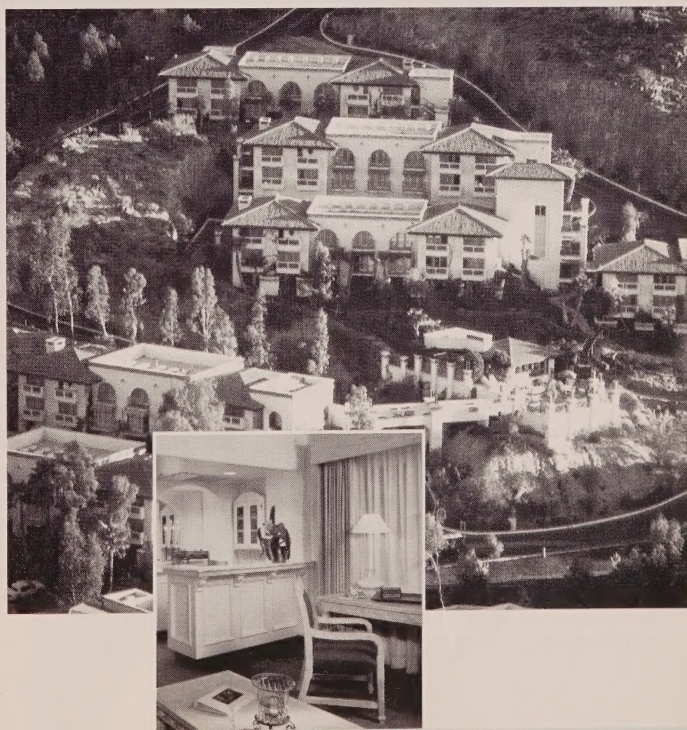
And that's only the beginning! More than forty workshops will be held and will include topics such as "Purpose, Vision, Mission: Creating Focus for Your Future," "Building Blocks of Church Growth," and "Community, Cause and Corporation: A Paradigm for Church Development." Of special interest for Board of Directors members will be workshops on "Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors," "Risk Prevention and Management in the Local Church," "Financial Management in the Church," and



"Church Facilities: Creating an Environment for Productive Ministry." Training in other vibrant and growing ministry areas will be offered including Spanish-speaking and Latin Ministries and ecumenical witness and ministry.

Leadership Conference special guest, Speed Leas, will present sessions on "Understanding Your Congregation as a System" and "Managing Congregational Conflict: Identifying Levels of Conflict" and will be available for appointments to consult on your local church issues. Speed is a prominent consultant to religious organizations, educator of church leaders, author of seven books and a senior consultant with The Alban Institute.

This outstanding training and ministry development conference will be enjoyed at the beautiful Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona – a premier resort terraced along the slopes of the Phoenix North Mountain Preserve. Golfing, tennis, horseback riding, swimming and more make for a resort location



with something for everyone. The Pointe boasts completely renovated two-room guest suites and "The Falls" – a three and a half acre on-premises oasis of waterfalls, swimming pools, and poolside terraces.

You're guaranteed to return home from the largest UFMCC Leadership Conference ever with new ideas and renewed energy for ministry! Bring a team from your local church – pastoral staff, lay leaders, board of directors members, musicians, and everyone enthu-

siastic about the ministry of your church. The communities we serve and the God in whose name we minister are worthy of the very best we can offer. Don't miss this opportunity to improve the quality of your local church ministry.

To register, complete and return the registration form in this issue of Keeping In Touch. And visit the UFMCC website for the latest information on Leadership

Conference features at <http://www.ufmcc.com>. For more information, additional forms or brochures e-mail NMeckley@ufmccq.com or phone 310/360-8640.

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1

1998 Leadership Conference Registration Form

"Excellence in Ministry"

August 13-16, 1998, Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs, Phoenix, Arizona

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Church attended _____

Registration Fees and Information:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| ☐ Early Registration: Postmarked before June 1, 1998 | \$150.00 (US) |
| ☐ Late Registration: Postmarked before July 31, 1998 | \$175.00 (US) |
| ☐ On-Site Registration At The Pointe, Phoenix, AZ | \$200.00 (US) |

- ☐ One Day Registration (Discounts/scholarships do not apply. \$75.00 (US))
Check one day only: ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

- ☐ Children/Youth Registration Ages 17 and younger. FREE
Check to receive Children/Youth registration information ☐

- ☐ Young Adult Registration Discount Ages 18 to 30. Deduct \$40.00 (US)

- ☐ Outside United States Registration Discount Deduct \$40.00 (US)

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed (US funds only payable to UFMCC Leadership Conference)
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Special Needs:

- ☐ Sign Language Interpretation ☐ Spanish Translation ☐ Vegetarian Meals
☐ Other (Specify): _____

Lodging:

Rooms at the Pointe Hilton are \$82.00 (US) plus tax, single or double occupancy; \$15.00 (US) for additional persons. To make reservations call the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs direct at 1-800-876-4683 or 602-866-7500 and ask for reservations.

Return Form With Payment To:

UFMCC Leadership Conference, ATTN: Nancy Fackrell
8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, Second Floor,
West Hollywood, CA 90069
fax: (310) 360-8680, or e-mail: nfackrell@ufmccq.com

ministry that each and every one has contributed to the life and work of Metropolitan Community Church of Bournemouth."

Creative Outreach to the Homeless

"A larger church might be able to do something more like set up a soup kitchen ... but we're a small church and this has turned into a great ministry for us where we're doing something one day at a time for people." So said Barbara, who together with her husband Dudley Davis and the congregation of Good Samaritan MCC (Whittier, CA), have started a simple and effective way to feed the homeless in their community.

The idea came to Dudley Davis when he encountered a homeless man. When Davis stopped his car to help the man, who was being harassed by others, Davis was touched in a way he will never forget. Davis still recounts how feeble and sad the man looked as he said, "I am so hungry." The experience had such a profound effect on Davis that to this day is sure that man must have been an angel come to tell him that he must do something, anything to help.

After telling his wife of the experience, they set out to do something to help others in similar situations. With the blessing of their pastor, the Rev. Gina Chapman, they began to collect containers of non-perishable foods at their church. They put together a list of foods: raisins, juice in a can, potato chips, granola bars, apple sauce, pudding cups, beans and more. There were two unique requirements for the food collection: packages must be able to be opened without a can opener and the foods donated must be usable without having to be cooked. The congregation brought in supplies and the Davis family would assemble bags of food along

Bournemouth MCC News

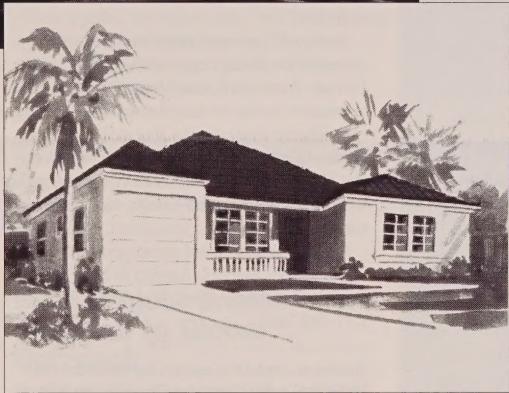
It's not every day that an MCC minister is honored by Queen Elizabeth II. But that's the case with the Rev. Neil Thomas, pastor of MCC Bournemouth (Bournemouth, England), who has been invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on July 14, 1998. Thomas will be recognized by Queen Elizabeth II for his ministry to the homeless, the abused, and the marginalized. He has been invited to attend as an openly gay UFMCC minister, along with his partner, Miles Bingham.

Thomas, who will celebrate 10 years as Pastor of MCC Bournemouth in February 1999, has also been honored by the local town of Bournemouth. Members of his church nominated him as Volunteer of the Year for his contributions to community. Thomas, the first fully compensated pastor in the European District, gives a tithe of his time to the local community, serving on local boards and charities including the Rape, Abuse and Incest Help Line and other local projects that serve both the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities and heterosexual community.

Pastor Thomas said, "These honours are received not for myself but for every person who has touched my life and made it what it is today. I receive these honours in recognition of God's influence and the wonderful

Jimmy Corrigan

Jimmy Corrigan, long-time member of the Sunshine Cathedral (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), died during Holy Week after a two-year struggle with Alzheimer's. He was often called "MCC's Goodwill Ambassador," having traveled to over 80 MCC's around the world. The photo album and scrapbook of his travels is part of UFMCC's archival collection. Though blind in his later years, Jimmy served the Sunshine Cathedral as delegate for several years, until his health began to deteriorate at the Atlanta Conference. He was buried in Fort Myers, FL on Holy Saturday next to his lover of many years, with the Rev. Elder John Gill of St. Petersburg officiating.



with a spoon and a small card telling the homeless person that they were praying for them and that God will be by their side. Then each Sunday the bags are given out to worshipers to hand out as they encounter a homeless person.

Numerous people they minister to actually wait and know Dudley Davis by name as they have come to expect his deliveries. For the last two years the ministry has been so successful that Barbara and Dudley went to the District Conference, last year to teach other ministries how to put together such a ministry.

What is this ministry called? Well, Davis never did find out his angel's name, so he named him Jerry. Appropriately, the unique food distribution system using worshipers to distribute food to the homeless is simply called "Jerry's Ministry".

The ministry's simplicity and simple goodness make it so successful by effectively meeting real human needs one day at a time. Jerry's Ministry has already been adopted by Resurrection Beach MCC and South Bay MCC, as well as

by a United Methodist congregation in Arizona.

Barbara tells of how this is an ideal ministry for a small church. Good Samaritan didn't have a kitchen or a congregation to do something extravagant. What they did have was the faith and love to act on the direction of an angel. To find out more about "Jerry's Ministry" call the Rev. Gina Chapman at Good Samaritan at (562) 696-6213 or send e-mail to GSamMCC@worldnet.att.net

Gay Retirement Living

Gay and lesbian retirement "should be a positive, fulfilling new experience."

That's the enthusiastic view of William J. Laing, the driving force behind the first-ever gay and lesbian retirement resort. Known as the Palms of Manasota, the resort is located near Sarasota, Florida. Today two houses have been constructed and there are nine deposits for homes. The resort community will consist of three phases: the first with twenty-three two or three bedroom/two bathroom homes with garages, the second phase with a total of eleven condos, and the last phase will be an Assisted Living Facility.

Laing said, "As you get older, it becomes harder to get around in the community and make new friends. For example, I know only two of the neighbors in my community; at the Palms it won't be like that." With plans for a fifty foot yacht (available to the residents), a newly built theater, tennis courts, library, movie theater, heated swimming pool and spa, and shuffle board and tennis courts the resort will meet Laing's vision of an active and positive retired gay and lesbian community.

Laing has been active in Church of the Trinity MCC (Sarasota, FL) Florida since it started.

Laing so believes in the mission and ministry of UFMCC that he is leaving the Palms of Manasota to Trinity MCC.

The non-profit and member-sustained Palms of Manasota may be an excellent retirement option many gays and lesbians. In a recent letter, Laing writes, "Greetings to all of you from all of us at the Palms. As usual everything is moving along beautifully." A brochure can be downloaded from <http://www.prideworks.com/palms/brochure.htm> or by calling 941-722-5858.

Sanchez de Leon Confronts Sodomy Law

The Rev. Margarita Sanchez de Leon of San Juan, Puerto Rico, co-pastor of the MCC congregation Community Metropolitana Cristo Sanador in Santurce and a tireless worker for the National Ecumenical Movement of Puerto Rico (MENPRI) has challenged Puerto Rico's antiquated sodomy laws.

A Fellowship of Activity

Holy Trinity MCC (Edinburgh, Scotland) was featured in a Radio Scotland broadcast on the role of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people in the Christian Church. ■ **Church of the Trinity MCC** (Sarasota, FL) raised \$33,000 in just five weeks for the renovation of Pierce Fellowship Hall and for the creation of a Memorial Prayer Chapel at its central Sarasota location. ■ **Elder C.T. Friesen's** new mailing address is P.O. Box 651, Cortaro, AZ 85652-0651. ■ Did you know: That the **UFMCC website** now receives more than 100,000 "hits" every month? Visit the site at <http://www.ufmcc.com> often for the latest news. ■ Congratulations to **MCC of the Resurrection** (Houston, TX). MCCR which recently celebrated its 25 anniversary this weekend. The Rev. Elder Troy Perry is the featured speaker. ■ Did you know: **UFMCC's Department of Global Outreach** has received requests from more than 30 countries for assistance in bringing an MCC presence to their countries?

■ Congratulations to **MCC San Francisco** (CA), which celebrates its 28th Anniversary at all three services this Sunday, April 26th. ■ MCC Chattanooga (TN) won the first place trophy for raising the most money among churches for the "Strides of March Walk For AIDS," raising \$1700. Miss America 1998 presented the trophy to MCC Chattanooga. ■ **Dr. Mel White**, UFMCC Minister of Justice, will participate in "A Future of Nonviolence" conference sponsored by The Fellowship of Reconciliation. The conference will take place in Milford, Indiana July 15-19. For details, e-mail formembers@igc.org. ■ **Spirit of the Valley** (Billings, MT) has opened "The Brewin' Bean: Grounds-4-Culture" - a coffee house with a 50's touch for the community. The coffee house is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and features artists, musicians and poets and crafts persons. ■ **Fr. John McNeill**, author of "The Church and the Homosexual," has relocated to Fort Lauderdale, where he serves on the preaching staff of the Sunshine Cathedral MCC.

UFMCC World of Music



■ DELORES P. BERRY
Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody, But I Couldn't Keep It To Myself includes: Jesus, I'll Never Forget, Free at Last, You Are My Hiding Place, Make Me Like You and 7 other titles.

Songs of Joy includes: I Feel Good, Revive Us Again, I've Got A Robe, Sweet Hour of Prayer and 7 other titles.

This Is Why I Sing includes: Daystar, It Is Well, Jesus Loves Me, Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus and 7 other titles.



■ CHADASH MINISTRIES
Worship Celebration includes: Hear My Cry, I Lift Up Your Name, Most Holy One, Break Dividing Walls, and 8 other titles.



■ DAVID & JANE
In Our Own Words includes: Come By Here, I Shall Wait, At Calvary, Never Alone and 6 other titles.

Not Ashamed includes: My God Is Real, Jesus Never Fails, Bless It Back, Rejoice! And six other titles.



■ DON KENNEDY
Come Home includes: Wayfaring Stranger, Get Happy, Abide With Me, Healing Hands and 10 other titles.

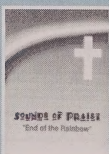


■ LEO MCDERMOTT
God And You includes: Give Thanks, Be Exalted, Over the Rainbow The Thread of Life and 8 other titles.



■ DARREL MITCHELL
My Heritage (instrumental) includes: How Great Thou Art, Overshadowed, Stand Up For Jesus, Poor Wayfaring Stranger and 9 other titles.

■ POSITIVE VOICES
Windows of Hope includes: One Voice, When I Heal, Walk Trough, I'm Feeling Fine and 8 other titles.



■ SOUNDS OF PRAISE
End of the Rainbow includes: Victory in Jesus, Hold On, Jewish Carpenter, Alleluia and 6 other titles.



■ MARSHA STEVENS
The Best Is Yet To Come includes: Celebrate, Communion Song, Good News, The Open Door and 6 other titles.

For Those Who Know It Best includes: In the Garden, It Is Well, Sweet Hour of Prayer, Amazing Grace and 10 other titles.

Free To Be includes: Falling Star, Perfect Love, For Those Tears I Died, Mommy's Song, 6 other titles.

I Still Have A Dream includes: Eastern Gate, Cup of Joy, I'm Blessed, River of Life, 5 other titles.

I Will Not Behave Like Prey includes: Sing A New Song, Diversity, Prelude, I'll Still Have Jesus and 6 other titles.

No Matter What Way includes: I'm In Love, Is It I?, Will We Ever Know, You're Here and 6 other titles.



■ CHRISTIAN MUSIC & MEDITATION #1: Rest



■ REV. ELDER TROY D. PERRY
One God Sermons preached at the Mother Church.

On Oct. 15, 1997, Sanchez de Leon spoke before the Puerto Rican legislature concerning House Bill 1013, which defines marriage as solely between people of different sexes.

The committee chair demanded to know if Margarita was a lesbian, and advised her that she could be arrested under Puerto Rico's sodomy law. As a test of the law, Sanchez de Leon insisted that she be arrested as an open lesbian, but the committee dismissed her.

On October 23, Sanchez de Leon met with a delegation of five lawyers to decide how best to proceed. She was determined to go to court, either by getting arrested or through a suit brought in civil court. In any case, she hoped that the law would be judged unconstitutional.

She spent the following weeks organizing committees for education, press relations, planning, soliciting international support.

On Nov. 4, Sanchez de Leon walked into San Juan Superior Court and confessed to violating the island's sodomy law. According to The San Juan Star newspaper, "She said in doing so she denounced the existence of a law which she said violates the constitutional right to privacy which must be granted to all citizens and that her actions were 'moral questioning of the law.'"

Sanchez de Leon was not arrested, but was referred to the Justice Department's Sexual Crimes Division. Prosecutor Ramon Muniz Santiago refused to prosecute her for breaking Article 103 of the Penal Code. She has now called for Justice Secretary Jose Fuentes Gaosini to issue an opinion on the sodomy law. The government's Penal Code Committee is also studying a proposal to decriminalize same-sex relations in Puerto Rico.

Messages of support and encouragement may be sent to the Rev. Margarita Sanchez de Leon, P.O. Box 22637, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00931; or fax to (787) 787-7686.

[Information compiled from reports by Ray Stimson and Vilma Machin, and Proviana Colon Diaz in "Justice Declines to Try Admitted Lesbian," *The San Juan Star*, Nov. 5, 1997, and the Rev. Judy Dahl, UFMCC Director of Global Outreach.]

UFMCC African-American Conference s Success

by Wanda Floyd

A record number of UFMCC African-Americans descended upon Beltsville, MD over the weekend of April 16-18, 1998 for a spirit-filled and blessed weekend. Participants attended from Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, DC — and Toronto, Canada. Many of our church members went back to their churches with a new awareness of who they are within their churches and the Fellowship. Many were inspired to return home with a new commitment to multicultural diversity.

Shipping on tapes and CDs: 1-2 \$2.00; 3-4 \$3.00; 5 or more \$5.00 California Residents add 8.25% sales tax

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

310360-8640

UFMCC RESOURCE CENTER, 8704 SANTA MONICA BLVD, SECOND FLOOR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069

PHONE 310/360-8640 FAX 310/360-8680 E-MAIL: RESOURCECENTER@UFHCCHQ.COM

California residents please add 8.25% sales tax

Workshops covered a variety of topics, including: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges: Facing the "Stuff" That Creates Division, Leading from the Spiritual Center, How UFMCC Works, Are We Having Church Yet?, Honoring Diverse Worship Experiences, and other workshops to help us be effective leaders in our churches.

Guest speakers at the plenary sessions challenged us to be "Our Brothers' and Sisters' Keeper" and to care for each other. In a plenary entitled "Tapping the Leader In You," the Rev. Sherman Hicks reminded participants that African Americans in UFMCC are "called to sing a new song in a foreign land." American Americans in UFMCC were encouraged to have strong spiritual lives, to build support groups, to speak the truth in love, to act in love and to deal with our own standards of acceptability within ourselves and our community.

Conference participants noted two highlights: one at the beginning and one at the close at the end. On Friday we had small group discussions at which time we each choose a piece of fabric. When we reconvened with the larger group, we wove our fabric, with our name and church written on it, into a piece of tapestry. The fabric was plain until we each added our unique piece to it a powerful symbol of the unique gifts African Americans bring to our predominantly white denomination. We are all here together, men and women, black and white, and together we make a beautiful tapestry. The other moment during the closing service. Rev. Phillip Matthews read out the names of the clergy who have gone on to remind us that we are not alone in our journey, but that others have gone before us to make our way easy. Rev. Elder Darlene Garner challenged us to return to our churches and make a difference by being the people God called us to be: African American's with a voice in our Fellowship.

Pilot Project Grants Awarded to Global Outreach

On behalf of the persons and churches in Global Outreach, our thanks to each of you who makes up the UFMCC! As a result of your leadership and foresight, the Pilot Projects Grant has made it possible for communication to be greatly enhanced for persons and churches in Global Outreach areas.

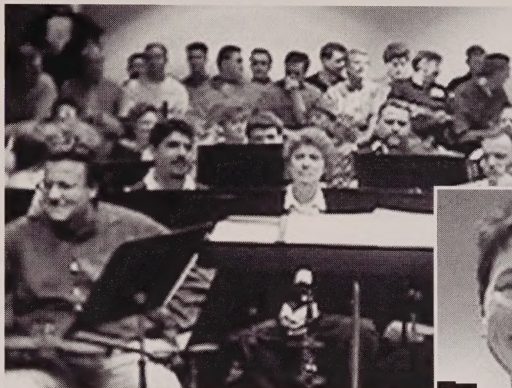


Rev. Judy Dahl,
Global Outreach

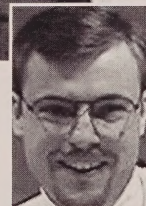
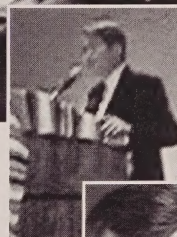
A grant proposal entitled "Global Outreach Communications and Ministry

Enhancement" was written to encompass the need of the Global Outreach Areas collaboratively.

In summary, the grant sought funds to give each of the seven countries which currently comprise Global Outreach the opportunity for access to technology and communications services through computers. We plan to provide computers and on-line ability to those countries and churches who are not currently on-line, and then to improve the equipment and access by providing other communication devices. It is our belief that information is power; we seek to share the power God has given us through the UFMCC. This power will



Conferences are a great opportunity to renew friendships and network with other churches.



Music was a highlight of this year's South Central District Conference

Gay Mormons! Attend 20th annual Affirmation conference in Portland, Oregon, Labor Day Weekend. Details at www.affirmation.org or call 503-288-2037.

Learn more about the Palms of Manasota! Conveniently located between Sarasota and Tampa Bay in Florida. For free information on the world's first retirement village for gays and lesbians write to William J. Laing, Project Coordinator, Palms of Manasota, 200 49th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221, or call (941) 722-5858. Attention churches: You may want to write for information for your members.

GREAT SAVINGS on dental, vision, and prescriptions. Community friendly, \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949. #AP60697A10110.

BROKERS Needed Full, part time. Excellent commissions & training. Own your business and help your community. Especially in Chicago, Boston, NYC, and major cities in Texas, Florida and Louisiana. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information. #AP60697A10110.

Enjoy a serene "mountain high" in Fort Collins, Colorado, a university city nestled at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains. MCC Family in Christ is seeking a dynamic, people-centered, spirit-filled Pastor with strong pastoral care and spiritual development skills. We're a small, energetic congregation with incredible potential for growth. Long-term commitment desired; start part-time, but progress to full time as you help us grow. UFMCC credentialing preferred. If a future near the mountains interests you, send letter of inquiry by August 1, 1998 to Pastoral Search, MCC Family in Christ, 805 S. Shields Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

MCC New Hope, founded in 1982 in birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement, seeks part-time pastor to lead us into the 21st century. Strong preaching/teaching skills and congregational care required. Stable (45-member) congregation, perfect climate, moderate living expenses, numerous educational/recreational opportunities. Write: Vice-Moderator, MCC New Hope, Post Office Box 603, Montgomery, Alabama, 36101.

The NORTHWEST DISTRICT is seeking a DISTRICT COORDINATOR. This person will oversee a large geographic area with varying concerns, challenges and opportunities. This person must be creative, energetic, enthusiastic and possess excellent organizational and administrative skills as well as an abiding love for our people. We offer unique opportunities for growth and service. The position is fulltime, salary (starting at \$27,000) plus benefits package. Please contact DC Search Committee c/o Keith Apple, PO Box 2370, Guerreville CA 95446-2370 USA, including resume and a letter expressing your interest and qualifications.

plug our churches and countries in Global Outreach into the wealth of information and access provided online through the Internet. Perhaps more importantly, this global access will provide the rest of the UFMCC with the enriching contributions of our people from around the globe, thus enhancing ministry for all the UFMCC's in the world.

A total amount of \$16,450 was awarded to seven countries, with eight separate awards given to accomplish these goals. Thank you so much for this gift.

Report from South Africa

The Rev. Andre Muller of Pretoria, South Africa, writes: "Six churches were represented at our recent South Africa meeting. Let me say immediately that the black church from Johannesburg and the Cape Town group are now a part of UFMCC!"

This is fabulous news and proof of God continuing to bless and sustain MCC in South Africa. As a part of the meeting, action was taken to restructure MCC-SA. The group accepted and approved the following people as the Executive committee, pending approval of the Board of Global Outreach: Rev. Gary Munson, Rev. Andre Muller, Santie van Schallwyck, Rev. Leon Nel, Mr. Hein Beukes and Rev. Johan Cronje. Congratulations to each of you and a warm welcome to our two new churches!

24-7 Linking Body and Soul: South Central District Conference

An enthusiastic group of over 230 registrants gathered in Dallas, Texas April 30-May 3 for the 1998 South Central District Conference, sponsored in partnership with the Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies. The highlights were numerous! The conference opened with a dynamic worship service. Our Liaison Elder, the Rev. Nancy Wilson, delivered a powerful message while the music of the North Texas Mass Orchestra and Choir added the finishing touches.

In keeping with the theme, 24-7 Linking Body and Soul, we enjoyed numerous workshops on Sex/Race/Class, Body/Sex/God, and a variety of other topics. Carmen Vasquez of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York delivered a keynote address entitled "Gay Heaven" which challenged and motivated conference attendees. Later, a room full of eager workshop participants gathered as Carmen Vasquez joined the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Bernie Barbour to speak about "The Unnamed Closets".

An unmistakable highlight of the conference was the Samaritan-sponsored Performance Event which featured nationally-known comedian Bob Smith, African-American music and poetry group, New Arts Six, and the HIV-Positive singing group, Positive Voices. We laughed until we cried, then cried until we laughed. The event was a huge success!

The conference is also pleased to announce the ordination of Rev. Charley Garrison and the reaffirmation of the ordination of Rev. Don Clarke.

Mid-Atlantic District Conference

The Mid-Atlantic District held its largest ever District Conference on April 24 & 25 in Hampton VA with more than 300 participants focused on the theme: LEADERSHIP 2000 - Pioneering For The 21 Century. Our special guest was Lyle Schaller, one of the most respected consultants and authors of church growth and development literature. Lyle spoke on Pioneering for the 21 Century, Strategies For Change, Plateaus - Breaking The Barriers, and Church Planting. In each presentation he stressed that we must not fear change and that people only change when they are discontent with the status quo and willing to envision a new future. He spoke of the need for our churches to speak relevant, quality messages of hope to our people. Lyle Schaller also challenged us to replace the old concept of one MCC congregation in a city with several congregations, each with a distinctive regional identity and role, and more multisite congregations. And, he said "continue to push planting new missions!"

We were blessed with the music of Don Kennedy from Dallas, TX and Voices of St. John's Choir from Raleigh, NC., as well as our own Rev. Delores Berry and the MCC New Life Choir from Norfolk, VA as well as many other talented musicians.

Our District received a challenge from the District Coordinator, Rev. Arlene Ackerman, to continue to reach out to another 2,000 people for Christ! In her report to the conference she noted that, "Our churches mean nothing if they are not about transforming peoples lives. If we spend a fortune on publicity to bring multitudes in to our church yet if they leave church unchanged, without a deeper connection with God, we will have failed! The call is not simply to get 2,000 more people into our churches, it's about making disciples of Jesus Christ!" Rev. Ackerman went on to say, "The time has come for UFMCC as well as our district and local churches to seriously explore the issues of discipleship. As we do this, our churches will expand beyond belief."

She also raised the issue of leadership development saying, "It is not enough to be theologically trained. Our leaders must know both how to lead and how to mobilize and empower people for effective transformational ministry."

Tom Langley received the District Commission on the Laity Award for his commitment to his local church and his work in both hosting and coordinating the District website. David Patterson and Rev. Becky Dickman both received recognition for their pioneering efforts in founding MCC Rehoboth Beach and Appalachian MCC (Charleston, WV) respectively.

The conference banners were presented to MCC Philadelphia for the most members registered at conference and highest percentage of members (more attended than they have as members) the next highest in attendance was tied between MCC Richmond and Vision of Hope MCC.

The Trials of Jimmy Creech

On March 11, 1998 the Rev. Jimmy Creech, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, was placed on trial to determine if he had violated the integrity of the church for blessing with God's grace the relationship of two women in his congregation who had shared their vows of love and fidelity with one another.

"I have to tell you," Rev. Creech explained, "that the integrity of the church was violated when the church decided to prohibit the celebration of the love and fidelity of two people regardless of their gender, regardless of their sex."

Just weeks before the trial, on February 12, 1998, lesbian and gay Americans celebrated Freedom To



Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

Marry Day, to help raise public awareness of the 1,047 rights and protections withheld from same-sex couples who are denied the

rights of marriage by their government and the rites of marriage by their church.

At a national press conference in Los Angeles on that day, Jimmy Creech shared the deeply personal story behind his evolutionary journey from neutrality to full support and total acceptance of God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered children. Just before the press conference, Jimmy and I sat together in the empty sanctuary of the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church and filmed the story of his own personal journey of faith.

I am convinced that the costly convictions of Jimmy Creech expressed in this deeply moving pre-trial video interview will help change minds and hearts in the current controversy over same-sex marriage that is dividing churches, homes, and families.

Towards the end of our interview, Jimmy described the first day he marched with other pastors in a local Pride Parade. "We marched behind St. John's MCC from Raleigh, North Carolina," he said, "and their witness changed my life forever."

Jimmy's description of the effects that one UFMCC congregation had on his life will demonstrate to your folks the long range impact their lives have on the people in your town (and most of the time, without even knowing it.)

Remember, after showing the video to your congregation, you have our permission to copy it (and our other Soulforce Videos) and to share them freely with your friends and family, with your PFLAG chapter, community center, schools and churches, other faith or activist groups and on your local cable access TV station.

Editor's Note: Mel White, our UFMCC Justice Minister, and his partner, Gary Nixon, have dedicated their lives to the creation of an interfaith justice ministry based on the "soul force" principles of Jesus, Gandhi and King. In 1997, Mel received the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award for his efforts to apply these "soul force" principles to the struggle for justice for sexual minorities.

The production and low cost distribution of videos like *The Trials of Jimmy Creech* is an educational

outreach of Mel and Gary's interfaith justice ministry. Perhaps you would consider taking a "love offering" for our Justice Minister?

Mel and Gary are offering complimentary copies of all three Soulforce videos to every church that sends a donation (large or small) to help support their work. Any checks made out to UFMCC and sent to Soulforce, P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652 are tax-deductible and will directly assist Mel and Gary in the production and distribution of these videos. The Soulforce videos include: THE RHETORIC OF INTOLERANCE; HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT GOD LOVES ME, TOO?; THE TRIALS OF JIMMY CREECH

To receive a copy of all three videos, and a study guide suggesting how the videos can be used in your church, make your love offering check to UFMCC and mail it directly to Mel's Soulforce address: Soulforce, P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652. For additional information you may contact Mel by e-mail at RevMel@aol.com.

Great Books for Your Children's Programs

There are some wonderful children's books available that reflect multicultural, justice-oriented and inclusive values. All of the books listed here are in inclusive

CLERGY

Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

language and all are highly recommended for your children's programs or library. For a longer list of books and additional resources, contact me at the Fellowship offices, and we'll be glad to send you one.



God's Paintbrush by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, illustrated by Annette Compton, Jewish Lights Publishing, 1992, ISBN 1-897045-22-2; a wonderful book about God's participation in our lives and world, with questions throughout the book for the child; would be perfect for use in a Sunday School class or with an individual child.



Old Turtle by Douglas Wood, illustrated by Cheng-Khee Chee, Pfeiffer-Hamilton Publishers, 1992, ISBN 0-938586-48-3; an absolutely delightful book about an argument that takes place about the nature of God and is wonderfully resolved; refers to God by both feminine and masculine pronouns and creatively describes the many attributes of God. One of my all-time favorites.



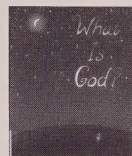
The World that God Made by Kathleen Long, illustrated by Peter Adderly, Tamarind Books (UK publisher), Tyndale House (US publisher), 1997, ISBN 0-8423-8294-1; a gorgeously

illustrated depiction of the Genesis account of creation, with fold out pages, along the lines of "The House the Jack Built."



One Earth, One Spirit: A Child's Book of Prayers from Many Faiths and Cultures edited by Tessa Strickland, Sierra Club Books, 1997, ISBN 0-87156-978-7;

written from a multi-faith perspective, with photographs from around the world, this book uses both female and male language for God.



What is God? by Etan Boritzer, illustrated by Robbie Marantz, Firefly Books Ltd, 1990, ISBN 0-920668-89-5; a wonderfully affirming view of God that introduces children to religions around the world; an excellent

book. Available in paperback.



The Greatest Table by Michael J. Rosen with various illustrators, Harcourt Brace & Company, 1994; this accordion book is about welcoming all people to the table to solve the issues of world hunger; there are

no specific references to God, but the themes of abundance, sharing and global connection are very powerful.

For those on the Internet, you can read reviews of children's religious books at *Publishers Weekly* at [http://www.bookwire.com/pw/bestbooks97.article%3\\$949](http://www.bookwire.com/pw/bestbooks97.article%3$949)

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping In Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail info@UFMCCHQ.com. Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - MARCH 1998

1.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$5,164.21
2.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$4,042.26
3.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$3,842.01
4.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	\$3,470.11
5.	MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$2,491.85
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	\$2,436.93
7.	MCC New York, New York, NY	\$2,307.24
8.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$2,266.24
9.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$2,018.84
10.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,970.48
11.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$1,950.69
12.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$1,859.33
13.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA	\$1,600.23
14.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$1,599.17
15.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$1,501.70
16.	Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX	\$1,357.95
17.	St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC	\$1,341.90
18.	MCC Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV	\$1,262.50
19.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN	\$1,235.81
20.	Suncoast Cathedral MCC, Venice, FL	\$1,117.60

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - MARCH 1998

1.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$59.03
2.	MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	\$53.89
3.	MCC of the Black Hills, Rapid City, SD	\$41.85
4.	Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$41.71
5.	Morning Star MCC, Cherry Valley, MA	\$37.22
6.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$36.73
7.	Resurrection Beach MCC, Costa Mesa, CA	\$35.15
8.	Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA	\$32.97
9.	Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL	\$29.10
10.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$28.96
11.	MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, FL	\$28.86
12.	Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage, AK	\$28.39
13.	New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH	\$27.78
14.	Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA	\$26.70
15.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$26.63
16.	MCC New York, New York, NY	\$26.22
17.	Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL	\$26.09
18.	MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	\$26.05
19.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Tallahassee, FL	\$25.61
20.	MCC Shepherd of the Plains, Great Falls, MT	\$25.20

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

Mar-April 1998

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

Renowned Church Consultant at UFMCC Conference

The 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference, "Excellence in Ministry," will feature Rev. Speed Leas, internationally known consultant to religious organizations and educator of church leaders. For the last 26 years he has worked full-time as a teacher and consultant to ecclesiastical groups throughout the US and Canada. With an extensive background as a management consultant to churches, Rev. Leas has earned a special reputation as an authority on conflict management, development of volunteer programs, leadership development and management skills. From his work and research he has given hundreds of seminars and lectures, written numerous articles and authored seven books including *Understanding Your Church as a System*, *The Inviting Church: A Study of New Member Assimilation*, and *Moving Your Church Through Conflict*.

UP FRONT

Nathan Meckley

Speed Leas is a senior consultant with the Alban Institute. Founded in 1974, the Alban Institute works to assist those who lead or care for congregations. The Institute gathers, generates and shares practical knowledge across denominational lines through research, consultation, publications and educational programs. Strategic planning, conflict management, congregational assessment, ministry evaluation, leadership development, church growth and transitions form the core competencies of the Institute and its more than 20 consultants.

With over 80 titles in current publication, the Alban Institute publishes 10 new books a year, provides consulting services to hundreds of clients annually, and offers nearly 50 continuing education events throughout North America for clergy and lay church leaders. For more information about The Alban Institute call 1-800-486-1318 or 301-718-4407.

At the 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference, Rev. Leas will present two plenary sessions and workshops focusing on "Understanding Your Congregation as a System" and

"Managing Congregational Conflict: Identifying Levels of Conflict." He also has considerable experience with the issues of churches dealing with homosexuality and has authored a chapter in Alban Institute's new book, *Congregations Talking About Homosexuality*, which draws upon the experiences of churches moving towards being "affirming" or "reconciling." He has been familiar with MCC since the early 1970's and in sharing his



enthusiasm for coming to UFMCC Leadership Conference stated, "I would bend over backwards to help MCC. I have such tremendous respect for your work."

Scheduled for August 13 through 16, 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference will be held at the beautiful Pointe Hilton resort at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona. With inspiring worship services, training sessions and workshops to strengthen your local ministry, and networking opportunities with other church leaders, plan on bringing a ministry team from your local church. To register for Leadership Conference please use the registration form which appears in this issue of Keeping In Touch. For more Conference information contact Nathan Meckley by e-mail at nmeckley@ufmcchq.com.

Opportunity for UFMCC Musicians

BALM Ministries, a Special Work of UFMCC's Southwest District, is offering an opportunity for other singers to gain professional recording experience. Marsha Stevens will record a Christmas album in Nashville, Tennessee June 22-26, 1998. Singers in ministry to the gay/bi/lesbian/trans Christian community who are interested in auditioning for solo verses or duets on the album may send a demo tape and letter of interest to the album producer, the Rev. Glenna Shepherd c/o Christ Covenant MCC, 109 Hibernia, Decatur, GA 30030. Tapes must be received by Rev. Shepherd by April 10th. Singers will be responsible for their own travel expenses. BALM wants to encourage others into musical evangelism. Questions may be directed to (714) 641-8968. Please leave phone numbers or e-mail addresses and any specific questions along with a good time to return your calls.

UFMCC Endorses International Day of Silence

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) has endorsed the International Day of Silence (INDOS) scheduled for April 8, according to a joint announcement by the Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of the UFMCC, and the Rev. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice.

"We are honored to endorse the International Day of Silence," said Perry. "We are sharing information with all of our local congregations, and encourage them to support and participate in this significant event," he added.

"Joining our young sisters and brothers in one day of silent prayer and contemplation," says Mel White, UFMCC Justice Minister, "should be followed by 364 days of loud and loving support. What an example they are setting for the rest of us."

According to Jessie Gilliam, co-chair of the event notes, "On the INDOS, participants of all sexual orientations take a vow of silence



for 9 hours, handing out explanatory cards instead of speaking to friends, classmates, and professors. This organized, visible silence has proven very successful in raising awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. After the silence hours, much dialogue goes on about the nature of silencing and the roots of homophobia, and the scene is set to begin positive educational lgbt activism in campuses and communities."

Additional information on the INDOS is available to UFMCC churches by contacting the UFMCC Communications Department by e-mail at UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

Rev. Ken Martin Honored for 35 Years of Ministry

In a surprise ceremony, MCC Austin, Texas recently honored their Pastor, the Rev. Ken Martin, for 35 years of Christian ministry. He was presented with a bronze covered album bearing the inscription, "We the members and friends of MCC Austin acknowledge and thank you for your tireless commitment to the world by being a continual inspiration through exceptional leadership, education and heartfelt words. We earnestly beseech you to gracefully and courageously lead us onward into the 21st century and beyond."

Rev. Martin was first licensed as a Southern Baptist

clergy in 1962. He became UFMCC clergy in 1974, and previously served as pastor of Good Shepherd MCC (Chicago, IL) and MCC in the Valley (North Hollywood, CA).

UFMCC Presence at Schuller Conference Grows

More than sixty UFMCCers from England, Canada, and the US attended the recent Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership and the attendant UFMCC Strategic Growth Initiative workshops. This represents a 50% growth over last year's event.

UFMCCers joined more than 2000 Christian leaders from around the world at the famed Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA for an intensive week of programs and workshops on church growth, outreach and ministry.

The week began with a powerful reminder of the ways God has used UFMCC. During Monday's Orientation Session for UFMCCers, a member of Dr. Schuller's staff asked for permission to address the MCC attendees.

In a moving and powerful presentation, she noted that her own gay brother had returned to faith through the ministry of a local MCC congregation and made peace with God while dying of cancer.

"When Dr. Schuller began this ministry (the Crystal Cathedral), he was viewed as 'not quite right' and because he preached from the roof of a snack bar at a drive-in theater. But look at how God has blessed this ministry. I know that you are sometimes viewed in this same light," she said. "But God is blessing you and using you, too. Whatever you're doing, you are reaching and helping so many people. Please keep it up. You are changing lives. I want to thank you for your ministry to my brother."

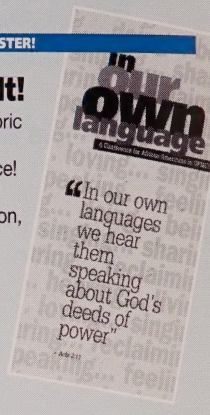
The more than 60 UFMCCers gathered in the meeting room on the campus of the Crystal Cathedral gave her a standing ovation! What a powerful beginning to a powerful week!

Special thanks to the members of the SGI Team for your excellent work during this week: The Rev. Elder Don Eastman, the Rev. Arlene Ackerman, the Rev. Nori Rost, the Rev. Brent Hawkes, Ravi Verma and Nathan Meckley.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

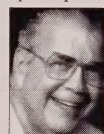
Don't Miss It!

Don't miss the historic UFMCC African-American Conference! April 16-18, 1998. Suburban Washington, DC. Come make history with us! Contact UFMCC Headquarters for registration information."



Lyle Schaller at MCC District Conference

Dr. Lyle Schaller, internationally-acclaimed church growth consultant and the author of more than 80 books, will be the keynote speaker at UFMCC's Mid-Atlantic District Conference in Norfolk, VA, April 23-25. The Conference is open to participants from all UFMCC districts.



Dr. Schaller participated in the 1992 UFMCC Leadership Conference and will be a featured speaker at the 1999 Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. In addition to

Schaller's participation, additional workshops will be offered on effective small group ministry, church planting, church finances, and implementing vision. The Rev. Elder Hong Tan will also preach and lead conference workshops. This is an excellent opportunity for church leaders from throughout UFMCC to hear and benefit from the exemplary work of Dr. Lyle Schaller. For conference details, or a free brochure with registration and hotel information, contact the Rev. Arlene Ackerman, District Coordinator, by e-mail at AJOY1@aol.com.

Commission On The Laity Meets

Len Shelton, COL Media Coordinator

The latest meeting of UFMCC's Commission On The Laity (COL) Facilitating Council was held January 24-26, 1998, at "The Essence" Retreat Center in Palmyra, Indiana. Initially the COL had made plans to hold this meeting either in Mexico or Puerto Rico. The church at Guadalajara, Jalisco, was most interested in hosting, however, plans had to be changed because of work schedules. Had the meeting occurred in Mexico, it would have been the fourth meeting of the COL held outside the United

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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States. Although unable to meet in Mexico this time, the COL remains strongly committed to affirmation of Lay Ministry in the Global Outreach communities.

This meeting saw the accomplishment of much good work, including completion of the COL Program Application. Steve Rose, Lay Rep of the Great Lakes District, presented his work on the development of an outreach ministry to Teens and Young Adults. A brochure and a resource book have been developed. Significant progress continues on the "Theology of the Laity" project. Assistant Chair, Beryl Qunnell, presented the latest addition of UFMCC materials translated into German. Monies provided by the South Central District's DCOL have made these translations a reality. The DCOL will be approached for funding to continue the work in the Danish language. Another impressive work was presented by the Mid Atlantic Lay Representative, Judy Ruppert, who offered her district's program for Laity Education. The Council was so impressed with the course offerings that the program was written into the COL Program Application as an offering for all the districts.

Employment Opening at Samaritan

The president of the Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, UFMCC's educational institution for professional ministry, is accepting employment applications for the position of Registrar/Administrative Assistant.

Coursework through Samaritan Institute is administered from the national office in Dallas and is presented in distance education programs, a two week residency program and through correspondence courses for students and clergy candidates in the United States and Canada.

Applicants must reside in the Dallas, Texas Metroplex. The position is three quarters time (30 hrs. per week). The registrar works with the Academic Dean to enroll students in school programs and maintain student records and files. Applicants must have IBM (Windows 95) computer data entry skills and some basic bookkeeping.

■ **Rev. Lin Stoner of Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids (standing), and Rev. Tony Freeman of MCC San Diego were among those who participated in the Strategic Growth Initiative seminar at the recent Schuller Institute.**



knowledge to record tuition and fee entries.

Mail inquiries to the attention of the President at Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, 2523A Bomar Avenue, Dallas, TX 75235, or fax 214/ 350-5089. The e-mail address is Saminst@aol.com

Ghandi and King on the Millennium March 2000

On Wednesday, February 4, 1998, the Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) announced a



**Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice**

JUSTICE

Millennium March on Washington, D.C. by a million gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Americans (and our allies) sometime in April, 2000.

Their suggestion comes more than two years in advance, plenty of time to discuss exactly how the march might be conducted for maximum benefit to our community and to our nation. What better activists could we use to lead our discussion than M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.? Although Martin and the Mahatma conducted their marches in very different times, the Satyagraha or "soulforce" principles of militant nonviolent resistance to injustice that shaped their marches could provide important guidelines for our own.* As we explore options for the Millennium March, I encourage us to keep the following "soulforce principles" in mind. (Ed. Note: While some of the ideas reflect an earlier time and setting, it is important to note the underlying principles of those ideas.)

1. A march has a specific, narrowly-focused, clearly-stated goal.
2. A march is not an end in itself but one tactic in a total strategy to reach that specific, narrowly-focused, clearly-stated goal.
3. A march is called for after negotiations have broken down with an adversary and then only to compel the adversary back to negotiations.
4. A march is costly (in time, money, and energy) to volunteers and the organizations they represent and that cost must be honestly and openly considered before the march is called.
5. A march is timed for maximum effect.
6. A march must require risk, courage, and stamina for the marcher (to demonstrate the marcher's total commitment and genuine concern).
7. A march is a serious-minded attempt to persuade the adversary that the request is just. A march is not a parade, party, or celebration that may confuse the adversary or even give the adversary more reason to hate or fear the marchers.
8. A marcher must be carefully trained in the goal of the march and sign a pledge to maintain standards of behavior and dress during the march that

A Fellowship of Activity

Correction: The excellent front page article on the upcoming UFMCC African-American Conference which appears in the February *Keeping In Touch* should have credited the **Rev. Belva Boone** as author. ■ Congratulation to **MCC Greater Tulsa**, Oklahoma, which recently elected the **Rev. Tracy Barber** to serve as their senior Pastor. ■ British television's new documentary, *The Truth About Women*, devoted a segment to the **Rev. Amanda McCullough**, associate pastor at **MCC Bournemouth**. ■ The international Scripps-Howard News Service carried a very positive interview recently with the **Rev. Elder Don Eastman** focusing upon church growth and UFMCC. ■ Congratulations to the **Rev. Nancy Horvath and Wichita Falls MCC**, Texas as they celebrated the installation of their new pastor and their covenant to partnership in ministry on their 11th anniversary during January. ■ **MoonSisters Drum Camp** will take place April 3-5 in Sausalito, CA. Sponsored by **Mother River Spirit**, a special ministry of the **Northwest District**. Includes rhythms of Africa and the Lakota; classes, jams, ceremonies, marketplace. Send e-mail to MoonSistah@aol.com for details and registration information. ■ Congratulations to **MCC Cologne** (Germany), which has started the process to gain charitable status from the government. ■ A continuing education seminar, **Leaders Make It Happen! Effective MCC Ministry Leadership**, will take place at **MCC of the Spirit** (Harrisburg, PA) on March 28. Open to MCCers from all UFMCC districts. Contact **Dan Schellhorn** by e-mail at DTSCHELL@aol.com for registration information. ■ UFMCC comes to Wyoming! **MCC in Wyoming** will hold their first worship service on Easter Sunday, April 12. The **Rev. Mark Lee**, pastor. For details, contact MarkLee1@compuserve.com. ■ **MCC Sydney** (Australia) served as official host for the "Blessing of Mardi Gras Service" for Sydney's internationally-acclaimed **Mardi Gras Festival**. Their guests included the **Gay Men's Chorus of San Francisco**. ■ Congratulations to the **Rev. Ralph Lasher**, assistant pastor of **MCC of the Resurrection** (Houston, TX), who recently delivered the invocation before Houston City Council and became the first openly gay clergy person to do so. ■ Interested in having your church's worship service or other programming appear on video on the Internet? Contact veteran gay activist **Jack Nichols** by e-mail at nicholsj@flatoday.infi.net for details and options. Jack is working with the **Badpuppy Internet Service**, which has reserved video time slots for use by

continued

UFMCC Resource Center



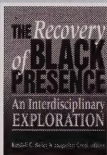
I Want To Be Ready: Meditations Based on Quotes From Famous Black Persons
 Sheron C. Patterson
 Provides more than fifty short meditations based on quotations from famous black persons.
 BP9727 \$5.00



Not Without A Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women in Ministry
 Vashti McKenzie
 Building on models of ministry that promote fellowship, support, and an environment conducive to learning and dialogue among peers and mentors the author forges a new partnership among African American men and women. This book should be read by everybody in ministry!
 BP9716 \$14.00



Divided Sisters: Bridging the Gap Between Black Women and White Women
 Midge Wilson and Kathy Russell
 This is a landmark book that will open the reader's eyes to the realities and challenges of bridging what is too frequently an unbreachable cultural divide.
 BP9613 \$18.00



The Recovery of Black Presence: An Interdisciplinary Exploration
 Randall C. Bailey and Jacquelyn Grant, Ed.
 A collection of essays that investigate Black presence in the ancient world in general and in the biblical text in particular.
 BP0083 \$13.50



African American Christian Worship
 Melvin Wilson Costen
 With careful scholarship and engaging stories the author traces the impact of culture on the evolution of forms and styles of worship.
 BP9730 \$12.00



Preaching for Black Self-Esteem
 Henry H. Mitchell and Emil M. Thomas
 This book first defines the need for ethnic self-esteem and traces it through the history of Africans and Americans. A Positive theology of self-esteem is offered. Each chapter contains two preachable sermons, with discussion questions for study groups.



All God's Children
 A Woman Vision Production in Association with The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.
 This video's awards include: Best Documentary National Black Arts Festival - Best Film on Matters Relating to the "Black Experience" Black International Cinema Competition - Special Merit Award National Black Programming Consortium - Jury's Choice Award University of Oregon Queer Film Festival. VT9801 \$27.00



African Dignity Greeting Card
 Frank Frazier
 Seven principles of Kwanza on back, blank inside. 4"x6" pkg of 12
 UM0034 \$5.50



Imani (Faith) Greeting Card
 Bonnie Acker
 Seven principles of Kwanza on back, blank inside. 4"x6" pkg of 12
 UM0035 \$5.50

Coming soon . . .

☐ **They Like To Never Quit Praisin' God: Celebration in Preaching** Frank A. Thomas
 Through the lens of African American preaching the author sheds light on what is "good" preaching and what methods can be employed to achieve it. BP9718 \$14.00

☐ **Listening In: A Multi cultural Reading of the Psalms** Stephen Breck Reid
 Making use of recent scholarship into the psalter, and combining it with African American, Latino, Asian American, and other non-dominant cultural materials, the author provides a compelling glimpse of the promise of a Multi cultural reading of the Scriptures. \$16.00

Shipping charges: 1 item \$3.00, 2 items \$4.50, 3 items \$6.00, 4 or more items \$8.00

310360-8640

UFMCC RESOURCE CENTER, 8704 SANTA MONICA BLVD, SECOND FLOOR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069
 PHONE 310/360-8640 FAX 310/360-8680 E-MAIL: RESOURCECENTER@UFHCCHQ.COM
 California residents please add 8.25% sales tax

will help convince the adversary that the marcher is determined and sincere.

9. A march is not called to support a candidate, party, or issue which may divide the marchers, but a specific goal or purpose upon which the marchers are united.

10. A march must focus the print and electronic media, all signs, songs, and speeches on the specific, clearly-stated, narrowly-focused goal before, during, and after the march to avoid any confusion as to why the march has been called.

11. A march must be directed by carefully trained monitors and before the march all marchers must agree to follow those monitor's directions.

12. A march must not seek to embarrass, coerce or terrorize the adversary, but quietly, calmly, and courageously convince the adversary that the marcher's goal is just.

13. A marcher must understand the principles of nonviolence and pledge to refrain from violence of fist, tongue, or heart during the march.

14. A marcher must be willing to control his/her passions, limit his/her possessions, even risk his/her life on behalf of justice for all.

15. A marcher must be a person of faith. [NOTE: Gandhi, a Hindu, was not sectarian in this rule. He defined God as Truth but began each day with personal and group prayer and meditation on the holy writings of all the "great religions." In 1939, Gandhi asked marchers to sign a pledge that he or she "must have a living faith in God." Gandhi embraced agnostics and atheists as friends in transition who have abandoned old, inadequate gods and are people of faith on a journey towards the Spirit of Truth.

Dr. King, a Baptist Christian preacher, marched arm-in-arm with Jews, Catholics, mainline Protestants and other people of faith, but in 1963, in Birmingham, for one example, he asked marchers to sign a pledge that they would "meditate daily on the life and teachings of Jesus."

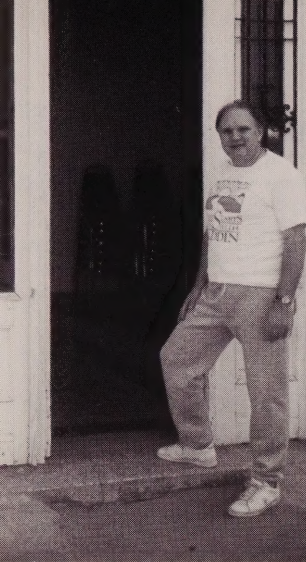
Neither leader required sectarian allegiance to any one statement of faith or religious practice, but both men stated clearly that a truly nonviolent march cannot be carried out by marchers without some faith commitment to a higher power.]

The Rev. Mel White is available to local congregations and districts to conduct Soulforce Seminars and to speak on the struggle for justice. For more information, contact Dr. White, or his partner Gary Nixon, at P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652 or by e-mail at RevMel@aol.com.

A Resurrection People

In the midst of this season of Lent it seems fitting to look around us and notice all the people who have "come to life" again in our time.

When Jesus asked us to follow him, he urged us to become our very best selves — a reflection of God. Jesus had to suffer and die in order for new life to be granted to those of us who would follow. Sometimes we will suffer and eventually, each of us will find ourselves behind what seems to be an immovable



■ The doors are open at ICM Monterey, Mexico, a new congregation within the Global Outreach area.

stone; something too big to handle, to tough to bear, to horrible to face.

When times like this happen in our lives, it's comforting to look on the life of Christ and remember that the cross isn't the end of the story. It's good to follow Mary and Martha to an empty tomb.

It is also helpful to look on the lives of saints in our midst; people among us who have, with God's help, been able to roll away that seemingly immovable stone. There are saints all over the globe who are living reminders of God's untiring love and faithfulness to us.

In South Africa, this very day, the Rev. Gary Munson and his wife Ann are looking into the tomb knowing that death is imminent for Gary. The doctors have told him he really shouldn't even be alive today. He has asked us to Praise God when we hear he has died because he has lived his whole life in God's service and he is grateful to be "going home."

In Mexico, people have traveled with the UFMCC for nearly two decades. Think for a moment what it would be like for you to belong to a group for so long and to never have a monthly newsletter printed in your native language. Somehow, though, because God held you together, you continued in the hope that someday "your faith would be sight." Just last week, new computer access programs have been located which will make it possible for UFMCC materials to be made available in Spanish.

In New Zealand, our people have been dwelling with only two ordained clergy in the past 20 years! Yet their perseverance and the talent and skill of the lay ministers has sustained them. In just the past year, four new clergy have been ordained and two new candidates have been named. New life is multiplying on the "Land of the Long White Cloud."

In Puerto Rico, a small handful of people have grown to an average attendance of 50 or more every Sunday.

In the Philippines, our MCC has taken the step to call Edgar Mendoza back to pastor the church. They are stepping beyond the heavy stone and into new life.

In Nigeria, a group of people led by Rev. Madukka have stayed connected to us despite the difficulties of communications and travel! The stone has not yet been rolled away but the people stay gathered at the place waiting for more miracles to happen.

In Argentina, our lay pastor continues to struggle to build a church and to reach out to others in the country who need and want help to roll the stone away.

New life is the reminder that resurrection is close at hand. Look around your home, your church, your neighborhood, our planet and celebrate God's presence in us, the Resurrection People.

Heart Wings 1998: Celebrating Ten Years of Ministry

Rev. Eleanor Nealy, South Central District Coordinator

Over 140 people gathered on Valentine's weekend for the 10th Annual South Central District Heart Wings Conference, making this the most well attended Heart Wings weekend in its history. Sponsored by the SCD Commission on Laity, Heart Wings focuses on lay leadership development, training, and empowerment.

Each year's conference is hosted by a local church, with this year's program held in Fort Worth, Texas and hosted by Agape MCC.

This year's special guest was James Birkitt, Jr., UFMCC's Director of Communications, who challenged everyone at the opening worship service by sharing portions of his faith journey and reminding attendees that no matter what our past stories, through the gift of God's grace, "we can dream again."

Participants gathered in workshop sessions throughout Saturday, gaining new information and skills for use in their local church ministries. Topics included: Direct Mail and Marketing in the Local Church, Making Small Groups Work in Your Church, Building Healthy Churches, Mobilizing Volunteers, as well as others.

Saturday evening's variety show brought tears and

MCC congregations. ■ The Ecumenical News Service of the **World Council of Churches** carried a lengthy article on UFMCC's growth, the **Cathedral of Hope MCC's** proposed worship facility, and an interview with **Troy Perry**. ■ The **Northwest District Women's Retreat Committee** invites you to join them for their **25th Annual Women's Retreat**, May 28-31, 1998. For more information, contact **Susan Van Houten** by email at VandPCU@aol.com. ■ Members of **Living Springs MCC** (Bath, England) became video stars as part of a preaching course. **Pastor Nick Stephenson** used a video camera to help participants improve their preaching skills.

PRAYERS

For the **Rev. Vicki Anderson** who has finished her service as Associate Pastor for Outreach with **MCC Amarillo, Texas** and is discerning the next steps on her journey. ■ For the **Rev. Charlene Buck** as she resigned the pastorate of **Victory Fellowship MCC** in November 1997. ■ For the **General Council** as they meet during March with a full agenda of policies and procedures to determine. ■ For the **Rev. Becky Dickman**, who resigned the pastorate of **Appalachian MCC (WV)** and is preparing for a new place of ministry.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

April 16-18 Conference for African-Americans in UFMCC
Theme: "In Our Own Language"

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Delynn Russell-Hinton and

Rev. Kelly Brown-Douglas

Held at the Holiday Inn,

Beltsville, Maryland

Cost: \$50 before March 30;

\$65 after March 30

Room reservations \$72.00/night

Contact: UFMCC (310) 360-8640;

Fax: (310) 360-8680

E-mail: ufmcc8@aol.com

April 24-25 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

Theme: "Leadership 2000:

Pioneering Into the 21st Century"

Guest Speakers: Lyle Schaller

Held in Hampton, Virginia

Contact: Rev. Arlene Ackerman

(717) 898-3713;

e-mail: AJQY1@aol.com

April 30-May 3 South Central District Conference

Theme: 24/7: Linking Body and Soul"

Guest Speakers: Carmen Vasquez,

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and

Rev. Judy Dahl

Held at Ramada Plaza, Dallas, Texas

Contact: SCD (817) 446-5544;

e-mail: SCDUFMCC@aol.com

Classified

ASSISTANT PASTOR NEEDED (Full Time) - King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL - experienced UFMCC clergyperson with gifts in worship, outreach, and education. Send resume ASAP to Rev. Elder John Gill, 3150 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Loving church in Detroit area seeks part-time pastor to promote growth, outreach and spiritual development. Contact Divine Peace MCC at P. O. Box 71938, Madison Hts., MI 48071 or call (248) 544-8335.

GREAT SAVINGS on dental, vision, and prescriptions. Community friendly, \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949. #AP60697A10110.

BROKERS NEEDED Full, part time. Excellent commissions and training. Own your business and help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information. #AP60697A10110

MCC Asheville seeks a full time pastor for our congregation of 50 members. The Asheville, NC area has a population over 200,000 and is located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. We are looking for a pastor who is strong in congregational care, worship, and outreach. We currently share space with another church, but are actively looking for our own space. Please send letters of inquiry to MCC Asheville Pastoral Search, PO box 2359, Asheville, NC 28802.

Learn more about the Palms of Manasota, the world's first retirement village for gays and lesbians! Conveniently located between Sarasota and Tampa Bay in Florida. For free information write to William J. Laing, Project Coordinator, Palms of Manasota, 220 49th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221, or call (941) 722-5858. Churches, you may wish to write for information for your members.

JESUS MCC, Indianapolis, IN, is seeking an Associate Pastor beginning in the summer of 1998. The position is likely to be part-time initially, but become full time rapidly. JMCC is a dynamic, Christ-centered congregation of 130 that has tripled in size in one year. We place a premium on Bible-focused preaching and teaching. Be part of something special! To receive an application packet, please phone (317) 894-5110.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail info@UFMCCHQ.com. Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr.,
Director of Communications

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Ravi Verma, Chief Operating Officer

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev. Steve Pieters

laughter with an amazing display of talent, hosted by "Ms. Scarlet O'Hara and Mr. Rhett Butler." A Valentine's Dance closed out the evening.

Ms. Sylvia Hodgins, long-time lay leader in the SCD, sent participants on their way Sunday morning with a message that urged everyone to delve deeply into the conference theme: Celebrating Unity and Diversity through the Gifts of the Spirit.

The State of EXCEL International

Jerry Reitz, Executive Director of EXCEL

The new year has started and as I begin my term as the new Executive Director for our very special and wonderful ministry which we call EXCEL, I am overwhelmed with all the dedication and work that all of our teams, and their members perform each year. I do not really believe that the average person within our Fellowship really understands or appreciates the amount of time, energy, and resources that our people actually dedicate to being able to construct a spiritual retreat weekend. But, I do want to thank each of you for your commitment to this lay ministry and for the Glory to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!!

I want to take a moment as I reflect upon the State of Excel, to express my thanks, and I am certain I speak for all of you within Excel, for the thankless dedication and hard work that our former Executive Director, Mr. Keith Apple gave to this ministry over the last four and one half years. His vision and guidance have helped secure a great amount of respect and understanding among the clergy and laity within the Fellowship that was not evident in previous years. THANKS KEITH!! We will all miss you and your leadership. (But fear not, Keith has offered and we have accepted his new position within Excel as our historian...praise God!).

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year and I would like to take a moment to review where we are as a ministry within the UFMCC. We currently have three programs that we offer as special spiritual retreat weekend exercises:

EXCEL: This is the foundation, the "bread and butter" of our programs. The intent of this weekend is to share tools to live our own individual daily walk with Christ. This weekend is built upon a series of nine talks

dealing with Ideal, Grace, Commitment, Prayer, Study, Action, Lay People in the Church, Security, and the final talk 'You' and what are you going to do with all these tools to empower you to assist and work for your local congregation and our clergy!

EXCEL IN FAITHFULNESS: This is a weekend designed to further our spiritual walk and is exclusively for those graduates from an Excel weekend. It is a second step program that discusses the word "Faithfulness" involving our faithfulness to our God, to ourselves, and to others. This weekend is intentionally designed to be for smaller groups so that there is more time for reflection, meditation, and Bible study.

COUPLES IN EXCEL: This is the newest of our three programs. This spiritual retreat weekend is designed to empower and affirm our people who are living a Christian Life in a Committed Relationship. For some time now, we have wanted to offer a weekend retreat to help same-sex and heterosexual couples with tools that would assist them in their daily lives. We are committed to make our marriages work and this program is designed to achieve this aim.

New programs being developed this year include Youth and Children's EXCEL and Excelling in Diversity.

We currently have 12 EXCEL Teams located throughout the USA and one team in the United Kingdom; we have one team for our Faithfulness program and one team for the new Couples in EXCEL experience. I am also happy to report that we have one new team in training for the EXCEL program in the Republic of South Africa and the possibility of two additional Couples in EXCEL teams which are considering being formed this year. Praise God!

Resources Provide Perspective on Ethics

Living and ministering with integrity is an integral part of who we are as Christians. In a complex world,



CLERGY

Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

ethics are not always obvious or easy. Here are several recently published books that provide resources and perspectives on ethics that I would recommend:

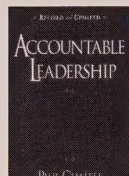


SIXTY SISTERS & BROTHERS CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

TOGETHER are seeking a new shepherd. Despite the untimely death of our beloved pastor, we have had a strong interim ministry and have continued our forward vision for God's people in the Inland Northwest. A solid salary package for serving the living Christ in this vibrant and creative community. If our words and the Spirit of God are touching you, contact Emmanuel MCC at 509-326-5853 or GEGJim@aol.com

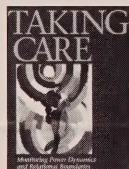
The Way of the Owl: Succeeding with Integrity in a Conflicted World Frank Rivers (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996)

The author begins with the premise that conflict simply exists in our world and that integrity is based on how we deal with that conflict. He gives the examples of the fledgling bird who acts out of fear and a sense of weakness and the mature owl who operates from self-knowledge and skill. This book contains a great deal of wisdom and connections for people of faith while not explicitly Christian in orientation.



Accountable Leadership: A Resource Guide for Sustaining Legal, Financial, and Ethical Integrity in Today's Congregations Paul Chaffee (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1997)

This is a comprehensive resource for lay and clergy leadership in the church, that includes extensive bibliographies for further study. It begins with an exploration of what it means to be an accountable leader, continues with very practical issues relating to the financial and legal obligations of a church, and concludes with information on both preventing and healing wounds within a church.



Taking Care: Monitoring Power Dynamics and Relational Boundaries in Pastoral Care and Counseling Carrie Doehring (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995)

This fascinating book uses examples from literature to explore the effects of faith and power. Doehring, through use of authors such as Toni Morrison, John Updyke, May Sarton and many others, shows how the archetypal themes of these works relate to modern pastoral care and interactions and

our concept of God. She then draws it back to her own experiences and case studies.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and its all small stuff: Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things from Taking Over Your Life Richard Carlson, Ph.D. (New York: Hyperion, 1997)

This book provides 100 suggestions and exercises for reducing stress in your life. While not explicitly a book about ethics, it strongly focuses on the quality of our interactions with ourselves and others. The book is much more reflective and helpful than a quick glance at the title might suggest.

Christian love and sympathy are extended to Ravi Verma, UFMCC's Chief Operating Officer, whose father passed away in Puna, India on February 27, 1998 following an extended illness.

EARLY REGIS-

1998 Leadership Conference Registration Form

"Excellence in Ministry"

August 13-16, 1998, Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs, Phoenix, Arizona

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Church attended _____

Registration Fees and Information:

- ☐ Early Registration: Postmarked before June 1, 1998 \$150.00 (US)
☐ Late Registration: Postmarked before July 31, 1998 \$175.00 (US)
☐ On-Site Registration At The Pointe, Phoenix, AZ \$200.00 (US)

- ☐ One Day Registration (Discounts/scholarships do not apply. \$75.00 (US)
 Check one day only: ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

- ☐ Children/Youth Registration Ages 17 and younger. FREE
 Check to receive Children/Youth registration information ☐

- ☐ Young Adult Registration Discount Ages 18 to 30. Deduct \$40.00 (US)

- ☐ Outside United States Registration Discount Deduct \$40.00 (US)

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed (US funds only payable to UFMCC Leadership Conference)
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Special Needs:

- ☐ Sign Language Interpretation ☐ Spanish Translation ☐ Vegetarian Meals
☐ Other (Specify): _____

Lodging:

Rooms at the Pointe Hilton are \$82.00 (US) plus tax, single or double occupancy; \$15.00 (US) for additional persons. To make reservations call the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs direct at 1-800-876-4683 or 602-866-7500 and ask for reservations.

Return Form With Payment To:

UFMCC Leadership Conference, ATTN: Nancy Fackrell
 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, Second Floor,
 West Hollywood, CA 90069
 fax: (310) 360-8680, or e-mail: nfackrell@ufmccqh.com



The Pointe in Phoenix, Arizona is a favorite UFMCC location for conferences.



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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - JANUARY 1998

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$3,885.90
2. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$3,077.97
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$2,556.36
4. MCC New York, New York, NY	\$1,497.21
5. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$1,495.24
6. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,371.87
7. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$1,352.39
8. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$1,345.97
9. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$1,227.52
10. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$990.24
11. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$988.59
12. Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA	\$888.13
13. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$873.87
14. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL	\$859.95
15. New Life MCC, Norfolk, VA	\$838.55
16. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	\$780.07
17. MCC Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX	\$768.16
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	\$759.29
19. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA	\$750.95
20. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$691.12

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - JANUARY 1998

1. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	\$57.44
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$55.09
3. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$46.00
4. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$40.65
5. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO	\$35.63
6. New Hope! MCC, Santa Rosa, CA	\$28.57
7. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL	\$27.69
8. MCC Shepherd of the Plains, Great Falls, MT	\$26.84
9. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	\$26.52
10. MCC Boulder, Boulder, CO	\$26.05
11. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL	\$26.03
12. Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO	\$25.60
13. Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA	\$24.97
14. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	\$24.81
15. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	\$24.61
16. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	\$24.20
17. Resurrection Beach MCC, Costa Mesa, CA	\$24.20
18. Firstcoast MCC, St. Augustine, FL	\$24.04
19. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$23.88
20. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$23.52

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

Mar-April 1998

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

Renowned Church Consultant at UFMCC Conference

The 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference, "Excellence in Ministry," will feature Rev. Speed Leas, internationally known consultant to religious organizations and educator of church leaders. For the last 26 years he has worked full-time as a teacher and consultant to ecclesiastical groups throughout the US and Canada. With an extensive background as a management consultant to churches, Rev. Leas has earned a

UP FRONT

Nathan Meckley

special reputation as an authority on conflict management, development of volunteer programs, leadership development and management skills.

From his work and research he has

written hundreds of seminars and lectures, written numerous articles and authored seven books including *Understanding Your Church as a System*, *The Inviting Church: A Study of New Member Assimilation*, and *Moving Your Church Through Conflict*.

Speed Leas is a senior consultant with the Alban Institute. Founded in 1974, the Alban Institute works to assist those who lead or care for congregations. The Institute gathers, generates and shares practical knowledge across denominational lines through research, consultation, publications and educational programs. Strategic planning, conflict management, congregational assessment, ministry evaluation, leadership development, church growth and transitions form the core competencies of the

Institute and its more than 20 consultants.

With over 80 titles in current publication, the Alban Institute publishes 10 new books a year, provides consulting services to hundreds of clients annually, and offers nearly 50 continuing education events throughout North America for clergy and lay church leaders. For more information about The Alban Institute call 1-800-486-1318 or 301-718-4407.

At the 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference, Rev. Leas will present two plenary sessions and workshops focusing on "Understanding Your Congregation as a System" and

"Managing Congregational Conflict: Identifying Levels of Conflict." He also has considerable experience with the issues of churches dealing with homosexuality and has authored a chapter in Alban Institute's new book, *Congregations Talking About Homosexuality*, which draws upon the experiences of churches moving towards being "affirming" or "reconciling." He has been familiar with MCC since the early 1970's and in sharing his



enthusiasm for coming to UFMCC Leadership Conference stated, "I would bend over backwards to help MCC. I have such tremendous respect for your work."

Scheduled for August 13 through 16, 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference will be held at the beautiful Pointe Hilton resort at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona. With inspiring worship services, training sessions and workshops to strengthen your local ministry, and networking opportunities with other church leaders, plan on bringing a ministry team from your local church. To register for Leadership Conference please use the registration form which appears in this issue of Keeping In Touch. For more Conference information contact Nathan Meckley by e-mail at nmeckley@ufmcchq.com.

Opportunity for UFMCC Musicians

BALM Ministries, a Special Work of UFMCC's Southwest District, is offering an opportunity for other singers to gain professional recording experience. Marsha Stevens will record a Christmas album in Nashville, Tennessee June 22-26, 1998. Singers in ministry to the gay/bi/lesbian/trans Christian community who are interested in auditioning for solo verses or duets on the album may send a demo tape and letter of interest to the album producer, the Rev. Glenna Shepherd c/o Christ Covenant MCC, 109 Hibernia, Decatur, GA 30030. Tapes must be received by Rev. Shepherd by April 10th. Singers will be responsible for their own travel expenses. BALM wants to encourage others into musical evangelism. Questions may be directed to (714) 641-8968. Please leave phone numbers or e-mail addresses and any specific questions along with a good time to return your calls.

UFMCC Endorses International Day of Silence

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) has endorsed the International Day of Silence (INDOS) scheduled for April 8, according to a joint announcement by the Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of the UFMCC, and the Rev. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice.

"We are honored to endorse the International Day of Silence," said Perry. "We are sharing information with all of our local congregations, and encourage them to support and participate in this significant event," he added.

"Joining our young sisters and brothers in one day of silent prayer and contemplation," says Mel White, UFMCC Justice Minister, "should be followed by 364 days of loud and loving support. What an example they are setting for the rest of us."

According to Jessie Gilliam, co-chair of the event notes, "On the INDOS, participants of all sexual orientations take a vow of silence



for 9 hours, handing out explanatory cards instead of speaking to friends, classmates, and professors. This organized, visible silence has proven very successful in raising awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. After the silence hours, much dialogue goes on about the nature of silencing and the roots of homophobia, and the scene is set to begin positive educational LGBT activism in campuses and communities."

Additional information on the INDOS is available to UFMCC churches by contacting the UFMCC Communications Department by e-mail at UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

Rev. Ken Martin Honored for 35 Years of Ministry

In a surprise ceremony, MCC Austin, Texas recently honored their Pastor, the Rev. Ken Martin, for 35 years of Christian ministry. He was presented with a bronze



covered album bearing the inscription, "We the members and friends of MCC Austin acknowledge and thank you for your tireless commitment to the world by being a continual inspiration through exceptional leadership, education and heartfelt words. We earnestly beseech you to gracefully and courageously lead us onward into the 21st century and beyond."

Rev. Martin was first licensed as a Southern Baptist

clergy in 1962. He became UFMCC clergy in 1974, and previously served as pastor of Good Shepherd MCC (Chicago, IL) and MCC in the Valley (North Hollywood, CA).

UFMCC Presence at Schuller Conference Grows

More than sixty UFMCCers from England, Canada, and the US attended the recent Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership and the attendant UFMCC Strategic Growth Initiative workshops. This represents a 50% growth over last year's event.

UFMCCers joined more than 2000 Christian leaders from around the world at the famed Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA for an intensive week of programs and workshops on church growth, outreach and ministry.

The week began with a powerful reminder of the ways God has used UFMCC. During Monday's Orientation Session for UFMCCers, a member of Dr. Schuller's staff asked for permission to address the MCC attendees.

In a moving and powerful presentation, she noted that her own gay brother had returned to faith through the ministry of a local MCC congregation and made peace with God while dying of cancer.

"When Dr. Schuller began this ministry (the Crystal Cathedral), he was viewed as 'not quite right' and because he preached from the roof of a snack bar at a drive-in

theater. But look at how God has blessed this ministry. I know that you are sometimes viewed in this same light," she said. "But God is blessing you and using you, too. Whatever you're doing, you are reaching and helping so many people. Please keep it up. You are changing lives. I want to thank you for your ministry to my brother."

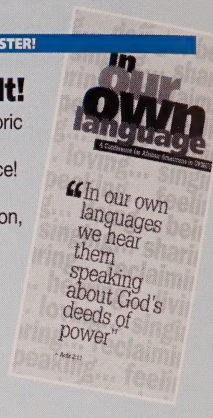
The more than 60 UFMCCers gathered in the meeting room on the campus of the Crystal Cathedral gave her a standing ovation! What a powerful beginning to a powerful week!

Special thanks to the members of the SGI Team for your excellent work during this week: The Rev. Elder Don Eastman, the Rev. Arlene Ackerman, the Rev. Nori Rost, the Rev. Brent Hawkes, Ravi Verma and Nathan Meckley.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

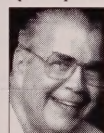
Don't Miss It!

Don't miss the historic UFMCC African-American Conference! April 16-18, 1998. Suburban Washington, DC. Come make history with us! Contact UFMCC Headquarters for registration information."



Lyle Schaller at MCC District Conference

Dr. Lyle Schaller, internationally-acclaimed church growth consultant and the author of more than 80 books, will be the keynote speaker at UFMCC's Mid-Atlantic District Conference in Norfolk, VA, April 23-25. The Conference is open to participants from all UFMCC districts.



Dr. Schaller participated in the 1992 UFMCC Leadership Conference and will be a featured speaker at the 1999 Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. In addition to

Schaller's participation, additional workshops will be offered on effective small group ministry, church planting, church finances, and implementing vision. The Rev. Elder Hong Tan will also preach and lead conference workshops. This is an excellent opportunity for church leaders from throughout UFMCC to hear and benefit from the exemplary work of Dr. Lyle Schaller. For conference details, or a free brochure with registration and hotel information, contact the Rev. Arlene Ackerman, District Coordinator, by e-mail at AJOI1@aol.com.

Commission On The Laity Meets

Len Shelton, COL Media Coordinator

The latest meeting of UFMCC's Commission On The Laity (COL) Facilitating Council was held January 24-26, 1998, at "The Essence" Retreat Center in Palmyra, Indiana. Initially the COL had made plans to hold this meeting either in Mexico or Puerto Rico. The church at Guadalajara, Jalisco, was most interested in hosting, however, plans had to be changed because of work schedules. Had the meeting occurred in Mexico, it would have been the fourth meeting of the COL held outside the United

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS communications@ufmccq.com
UFMCC RESOURCE CENTER resourcecenter@ufmccq.com
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States. Although unable to meet in Mexico this time, the COL remains strongly committed to affirmation of Lay Ministry in the Global Outreach communities.

This meeting saw the accomplishment of much good work, including completion of the COL Program Application. Steve Rose, Lay Rep of the Great Lakes District, presented his work on the development of an outreach ministry to Teens and Young Adults. A brochure and a resource book have been developed. Significant progress continues on the "Theology of the Laity" project. Assistant Chair, Beryl Qunnell, presented the latest addition of UFMCC materials translated into German. Monies provide by the South Central District's DCOL have made these translations a reality. The DCOL will be approached for funding to continue the work in the Danish language. Another impressive work was presented by the mid Atlantic Lay Representative, Judy Ruppert, who offered her district's program for Laity Education. The Council was so impressed with the course offerings that the program was written into the COL Program Application as an offering for all the districts.

Employment Opening at Samaritan

The president of the Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, UFMCC's educational institution for professional ministry, is accepting employment applications for the position of Registrar/Administrative Assistant.

Coursework through Samaritan Institute is administered from the national office in Dallas and is presented in distance education programs, a two week residency program and through correspondence courses for students and clergy candidates in the United States and Canada.

Applicants must reside in the Dallas, Texas Metroplex. The position is three quarters time (30 hrs. per week). The registrar works with the Academic Dean to enroll students in school programs and maintain student records and files. Applicants must have IBM (Windows 95) computer data entry skills and some basic bookkeeping.

■ **Rev. Lin Stoner of Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids (standing), and Rev. Tony Freeman of MCC San Diego were among those who participated in the Strategic Growth Initiative seminar at the recent Schuller Institute.**



knowledge to record tuition and fee entries.

Mail inquiries to the attention of the President at Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, 2523A Bomar Avenue, Dallas, TX 75235, or fax 214/ 350-5089. The e-mail address is Saminst@aol.com

Ghandi and King on the Millennium March 2000

On Wednesday, February 4, 1998, the Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) announced a



Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

JUSTICE

Millennium March on Washington, D.C. by a million gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Americans (and our allies) sometime in April, 2000.

Their suggestion comes more than two years in advance, plenty of time to discuss exactly how the march might be conducted for maximum benefit to our community and to our nation. What better activists could we use to lead our discussion than M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.? Although Martin and the Mahatma conducted their marches in very different times, the Satyagraha or "soulforce" principles of militant nonviolent resistance to injustice that shaped their marches could provide important guidelines for our own.* As we explore options for the Millennium March, I encourage us to keep the following "soulforce principles" in mind. (Ed. Note: While some of the ideas reflect an earlier time and setting, it is important to note the underlying principles of those ideas.)

1. A march has a specific, narrowly-focused, clearly-stated goal.
2. A march is not an end in itself but one tactic in a total strategy to reach that specific, narrowly-focused, clearly-stated goal.
3. A march is called for after negotiations have broken down with an adversary and then only to compel the adversary back to negotiations.
4. A march is costly (in time, money, and energy) to volunteers and the organizations they represent and that cost must be honestly and openly considered before the march is called.
5. A march is timed for maximum effect.
6. A march must require risk, courage, and stamina for the marcher (to demonstrate the marcher's total commitment and genuine concern).
7. A march is a serious-minded attempt to persuade the adversary that the request is just. A march is not a parade, party, or celebration that may confuse the adversary or even give the adversary more reason to hate or fear the marchers.
8. A marcher must be carefully trained in the goal of the march and sign a pledge to maintain standards of behavior and dress during the march that

Correction: The excellent front page article on the upcoming UFMCC African-American Conference which appears in the February *Keeping In Touch* should have credited the Rev. Belva Boone as author. ■ Congratulation to MCC Greater Tulsa, Oklahoma, which recently elected the Rev. Tracy Barber to serve as their senior Pastor. ■ British television's new documentary, *The Truth About Women*, devoted a segment to the Rev. Amanda McCullough, associate pastor at MCC Bournemouth. ■ The international Scripps-Howard News Service carried a very positive interview recently with the Rev. Elder Don Eastman focusing upon church growth and UFMCC. ■ Congratulations to the Rev. Nancy Horvath and Wichita Falls MCC, Texas as they celebrated the installation of their new pastor and their covenant to partnership in ministry on their 11th anniversary during January. ■ MoonSisters Drum Camp will take place April 3-5 in Sausalito, CA. Sponsored by Mother River Spirit, a special ministry of the Northwest District. Includes rhythms of Africa and the Lakota; classes, jams, ceremonies, marketplace. Send e-mail to MoonSistah@aol.com for details and registration information. ■ Congratulations to MCC Cologne (Germany), which has started the process to gain charitable status from the government. ■ A continuing education seminar, **Leaders Make It Happen! Effective MCC Ministry Leadership**, will take place at MCC of the Spirit (Harrisburg, PA) on March 28. Open to MCCers from all UFMCC districts. Contact Dan Schellhorn by e-mail at DTSCHELL@aol.com for registration information. ■ UFMCC comes to Wyoming! MCC in Wyoming will hold their first worship service on Easter Sunday, April 12. The Rev. Mark Lee, pastor. For details, contact MarkLee1@compuserve.com. ■ MCC Sydney (Australia) served as official host for the "Blessing of Mardi Gras Service" for Sydney's internationally-acclaimed Mardi Gras Festival. Their guests included the Gay Men's Chorus of San Francisco. ■ Congratulations to the Rev. Ralph Lasher, assistant pastor of MCC of the Resurrection (Houston, TX), who recently delivered the invocation before Houston City Council and became the first openly gay clergy person to do so. ■ Interested in having your church's worship service or other programming appear on video on the Internet? Contact veteran gay activist Jack Nichols by e-mail at nicholsj@flatoday.infi.net for details and options. Jack is working with the Badpuppy Internet Service, which has reserved video time slots for use by

continued

Classified

ASSISTANT PASTOR NEEDED (Full Time) - King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL - experienced UFMCC clergyperson with gifts in worship, outreach, and education. Send resume ASAP to Rev. Elder John Gill, 3150 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Loving church in Detroit area seeks part-time pastor to promote growth, outreach and spiritual development. Contact Divine Peace MCC at P. O. Box 71938, Madison Hts., MI 48071 or call (248) 544-8335.

GREAT SAVINGS on dental, vision, and prescriptions. Community friendly. \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949. #AP60697A10110.

BROKERS NEEDED Full, part time. Excellent commissions and training. Own your business and help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information. #AP60697A10110

MCC Asheville seeks a full time pastor for our congregation of 50 members. The Asheville, NC area has a population over 200,000 and is located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. We are looking for a pastor who is strong in congregational care, worship, and outreach. We currently share space with another church, but are actively looking for our own space. Please send letters of inquiry to MCC Asheville Pastoral Search, PO box 2359, Asheville, NC 28802.

Learn more about the Palms of Manasota, the world's first retirement village for gays and lesbians! Conveniently located between Sarasota and Tampa Bay in Florida. For free information write to William J. Laing, Project Coordinator, Palms of Manasota, 220 49th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221, or call (941) 222-5858. Churches, you may wish to write for information for your members.

JESUS MCC, Indianapolis, IN, is seeking an Associate Pastor beginning in the summer of 1998. The position is likely to be part-time initially, but become full time rapidly. JMCC is a dynamic, Christ-centered congregation of 130 that has tripled in size in one year. We place a premium on Bible-focused preaching and teaching. Be part of something special! To receive an application packet, please phone (317) 894-5110.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping In Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail info@UFMCHQ.com. Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr.,
Director of Communications

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Ravi Verma, Chief Operating Officer

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev. Steve Pieters

laughter with an amazing display of talent, hosted by "Ms. Scarlet O'Hara and Mr. Rhett Butler." A Valentine's Dance closed out the evening.

Ms. Sylvia Hodgins, long-time lay leader in the SCD, sent participants on their way Sunday morning with a message that urged everyone to delve deeply into the conference theme: Celebrating Unity and Diversity through the Gifts of the Spirit.

The State of EXCEL International

Jerry Reitz, Executive Director of EXCEL

The new year has started and as I begin my term as the new Executive Director for our very special and wonderful ministry which we call EXCEL, I am overwhelmed with all the dedication and work that all of our teams, and their members perform each year. I do not really believe that the average person within our Fellowship really understands or appreciates the amount of time, energy, and resources that our people actually dedicate to being able to construct a spiritual retreat weekend. But, I do want to thank each of you for your commitment to this lay ministry and for the Glory to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!!

I want to take a moment as I reflect upon the State of Excel, to express my thanks, and I am certain I speak for all of you within Excel, for the thankless dedication and hard work that our former Executive Director, Mr. Keith Apple gave to this ministry over the last four and one half years. His vision and guidance have helped secure a great amount of respect and understanding among the clergy and laity within the Fellowship that was not evident in previous years. THANKS KEITH!! We will all miss you and your leadership. (But fear not, Keith has offered and we have accepted his new position within Excel as our historian...praise God!).

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year and I would like to take a moment to review where we are as a ministry within the UFMCC. We currently have three programs that we offer as special spiritual retreat weekend exercises:

EXCEL: This is the foundation, the "bread and butter" of our programs. The intent of this weekend is to share tools to live our own individual daily walk with Christ. This weekend is built upon a series of nine talks

dealing with Ideal, Grace, Commitment, Prayer, Study, Action, Lay People in the Church, Security, and the final talk "You" and what are you going to do with all these tools to empower you to assist and work for your local congregation and our clergy!

EXCEL IN FAITHFULNESS: This is a weekend designed to further our spiritual walk and is exclusively for those graduates from an Excel weekend. It is a second step program that discusses the word "Faithfulness" involving our faithfulness to our God, to ourselves, and to others. This weekend is intentionally designed to be for smaller groups so that there is more time for reflection, meditation, and Bible study.

COUPLES IN EXCEL: This is the newest of our three programs. This spiritual retreat weekend is designed to empower and affirm our people who are living a Christian Life in a Committed Relationship. For some time now, we have wanted to offer a weekend retreat to help same-sex and heterosexual couples with tools that would assist them in their daily lives. We are committed to make our marriages work and this program is designed to achieve this aim.

New programs being developed this year include Youth and Children's EXCEL and Excelling in Diversity.

We currently have 12 EXCEL Teams located throughout the USA and one team in the United Kingdom; we have one team for our Faithfulness program and one team for the new Couples in EXCEL experience. I am also happy to report that we have one new team in training for the EXCEL program in the Republic of South Africa and the possibility of two additional Couples in EXCEL teams which are considering being formed this year. Praise God!

Resources Provide Perspective on Ethics

Living and ministering with integrity is an integral part of who we are as Christians. In a complex world,



Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

CLERGY

ethics are not always obvious or easy. Here are several recently published books that provide resources and perspectives on ethics that I would recommend:



SIXTY SISTERS & BROTHERS CELEBRATING 15 YEARS TOGETHER

are seeking a new shepherd. Despite the untimely death of our beloved pastor, we have had a strong interim ministry and have continued our forward vision for God's people in the Inland Northwest. A solid salary package for serving the living Christ in this vibrant and creative community. If our words and the Spirit of God are touching you, contact Emmanuel MCC at 509-326-5853 or GEGJim@aol.com

The Way of the Owl: Succeeding with Integrity in a Conflicted World Frank Rivers (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996)

The author begins with the premise that conflict simply exists in our world and that integrity is based on how we deal with that conflict. He gives the examples of the fledgling bird who acts out of fear and a sense of weakness and the mature owl who operates from self-knowledge and skill. This book contains a great deal of wisdom and connections for people of faith while not explicitly Christian in orientation.

Accountable Leadership: A Resource Guide for Sustaining Legal, Financial, and Ethical Integrity in Today's Congregations Paul Chaffee (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1997)

This is a comprehensive resource for lay and clergy leadership in the church, that includes extensive bibliographies for further study. It begins with an exploration of what it means to be an accountable leader, continues with very practical issues relating to the financial and legal obligations of a church, and concludes with information on both preventing and healing wounds within a church.

Taking Care: Monitoring Power Dynamics and Relational Boundaries in Pastoral Care and Counseling Carrie Doehring (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995)

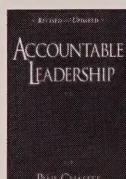
This fascinating book uses examples from literature to explore the effects of faith and power. Doehring, through use of authors such as Toni Morrison, John Updyke, May Sarton and many others, shows how the archetypal themes of these works relate to modern pastoral care and interactions and to

our concept of God. She then draws it back to her own experiences and case studies.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and its all small stuff: Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things from Taking Over Your Life Richard Carlson, Ph.D. (New York: Hyperion, 1997)

This book provides 100 suggestions and exercises for reducing stress in your life. While not explicitly a book about ethics, it strongly focuses on the quality of our interactions with ourselves and others. The book is much more reflective and helpful than a quick glance at the title might suggest.

Christian love and sympathy are extended to Ravi Verma, UFMCC's Chief Operating Officer, whose father passed away in Puna, India on February 27, 1998 following an extended illness.



The Pointe in Phoenix, Arizona is a favorite UFMCC location for conferences.

EARLY REGIS-

1998 Leadership Conference Registration Form

"Excellence in Ministry"

August 13-16, 1998, Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs, Phoenix, Arizona

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Church attended _____

Registration Fees and Information:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| ☐ Early Registration: Postmarked before June 1, 1998 | \$150.00 (US) |
| ☐ Late Registration: Postmarked before July 31, 1998 | \$175.00 (US) |
| ☐ On-Site Registration At The Pointe, Phoenix, AZ | \$200.00 (US) |

- ☐ One Day Registration (Discounts/scholarships do not apply. \$75.00 (US))

Check one day only: ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

- ☐ Children/Youth Registration Ages 17 and younger. FREE

Check to receive Children/Youth registration information ☐

- ☐ Young Adult Registration Discount Ages 18 to 30. Deduct \$40.00 (US)

- ☐ Outside United States Registration Discount Deduct \$40.00 (US)

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed (US funds only payable to UFMCC Leadership Conference)
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Special Needs:

- ☐ Sign Language Interpretation ☐ Spanish Translation ☐ Vegetarian Meals
☐ Other (Specify): _____

Lodging:

Rooms at the Pointe Hilton are \$82.00 (US) plus tax, single or double occupancy; \$15.00 (US) for additional persons. To make reservations call the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs direct at 1-800-876-4683 or 602-866-7500 and ask for reservations.

Return Form With Payment To:

UFMCC Leadership Conference, ATTN: Nancy Fackrell
 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, Second Floor,
 West Hollywood, CA 90069
 fax: (310) 360-8680, or e-mail: nfackrell@ufmccchq.com



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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - JANUARY 1998

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$3,885.90
2. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$3,077.97
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$2,556.36
4. MCC New York, New York, NY	\$1,497.21
5. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$1,495.24
6. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,371.87
7. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$1,352.39
8. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$1,345.97
9. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$1,227.52
10. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$990.24
11. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$988.59
12. Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA	\$888.13
13. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$873.87
14. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL	\$859.95
15. New Life MCC, Norfolk, VA	\$838.55
16. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	\$780.07
17. MCC Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX	\$768.16
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	\$759.29
19. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA	\$750.95
20. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$691.12

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - JANUARY 1998

1. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	\$57.44
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$55.09
3. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$46.00
4. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$40.65
5. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO	\$35.63
6. New Hope! MCC, Santa Rosa, CA	\$28.57
7. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL	\$27.69
8. MCC Shepherd of the Plains, Great Falls, MT	\$26.84
9. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	\$26.52
10. MCC Boulder, Boulder, CO	\$26.05
11. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL	\$26.03
12. Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO	\$25.60
13. Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA	\$24.97
14. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	\$24.81
15. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	\$24.61
16. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	\$24.20
17. Resurrection Beach MCC, Costa Mesa, CA	\$24.20
18. Firstcoast MCC, St. Augustine, FL	\$24.04
19. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$23.88
20. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$23.52

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

February 1998

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

A Message From Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC Moderator:

I have called upon our churches to observe 1998 as UFMCC's "Year of Prayer."

To launch our "Year of Prayer," I am inviting UFMCC's friends and members to join me in a "Fast of Prayer and Praise" beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and continuing through sundown on Sunday March 1st. This will be a daily fast from

UP FRONT

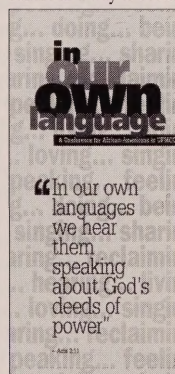
sunrise to
sunset, and a
time to

prepare us spiritually for the season of Lent... for the celebration of Easter... and for exciting new chapters of ministry and service.

During the "Fast of Prayer and Praise," I am asking our members to devote themselves to two tasks: First, to the ministry of prayer for God's continued blessing and provision for our churches, clergy and members and, secondly, to the ministry of praise for God's incredible goodness and blessing upon the Universal Fellowship.

Fasting is taught throughout the scriptures and practiced in almost every culture as a way to becoming centered

spiritually. Throughout my own life and ministry, God has used times of fasting as "spiritual breakthrough times" to deepen my faith and increase my sensitivity to God's Spirit.



In Our Own Language: A Conference for African-Americans in UFMCC

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

This is the first mini-conference of

its kind sponsored by the UFMCC for African-Americans. During the weekend of April 18, 1998, African-American MCCers will gather to focus on the contributions and needs of lay and clergy African-Americans within our denominations. Offered exclusively for African-Americans within the UFMCC,

the mini-conference will afford an opportunity to celebrate and affirm who we are in the UFMCC as well as the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring. Through exercises in creating awareness of our community and ourselves and through leadership training, African-American lay and clergy people will be equipped with spiritual and practical tools for reclaiming, maintaining, and sharing our unique particularities in our local churches, in our districts, and throughout the Fellowship.

It is important to address, from the outset, why such a conference is offered by the UFMCC. Our immediate response to this question is very simple: Why not? The UFMCC embraces, mandates, and

places strong emphasis on diversity and inclusivity. A part of being an inclusive community of faith involves involving different peoples, perspectives, and persuasions, and providing time and space for peoples of like cultures to gather with and for one another. On a regular basis, the Fellowship provides opportunities for our entire community of faith to come together for purpose of education, learning and fellowship. What has not been available for many years, however, is time for African-Americans, as a community within a larger community, to gather for support, nurturing, and empowerment. This conference is an opportunity for us, the denomination, to fulfill this part of our mandate.

The gathering of peoples of like ethnicity and culture is not uncommon in the UFMCC.

Sponsorship of such gatherings, whether it be supported by the Fellowship, districts, or local churches, is a part of the history of our denomination.

From the early 1980's until 1994, the former Department of People of Color(s) and White People Healing Racism (DPOC/WPHR)

sponsored a conference in non-General Conference years. Those conferences set aside specific time for both

People of Colors and people of European descent to gather separately by race and culture. This allowed time for these groups to deal with the unique elements of their journey of faith. Out of these conferences, two additional ministries for people of colors, one to Asians and one to Hispanic-Americans in the denomination were birthed. With the advent of the UFMCC mini-conference format, a new vehicle for cultural and racial empowerment has been made available not only to African-Americans but also to all minority groups in the denomination.

"In Our Own Language" is a time for African-Americans to come together to learn from one another, to get to know one another, to encourage one another and to serve as vessels for empowerment of one another. Such conferences not only are needed, but necessary — necessary for us as a people, necessary for us as a church and necessary for us as a denomination. History teaches us that the only way a people can be in community with those who are unlike themselves is to learn first how to be in community among themselves. This is one of the goals of this

historic mini-conference. Without question, our increased effectiveness as African-Americans in the UFMCC is dependent upon our ability to gather with each other in order to teach and learn from one another how we, as African-Americans, can find our place at the table, the table of Christ offered by UFMCC. This discovery is not something that can be "given" to us by someone else. It is a discovery that we must make ourselves, for ourselves.

The gathering of African-Americans for this conference is not about pulling out or separating from the rest of our brothers and sisters in the Fellowship. Rather, it is about African-American MCCers building each other up within the UFMCC so that we may be more effective by our work and ministry in the UFMCC.

MCC Manila Pulses with God's Presence

After a nearly-30 hour trip, Gloria Bugay, member and seminary student of MCC Long Beach and I arrived in Bataan, two hours north of Manila in the Philippines. Just days prior to our departure, Gloria received word



GLOBAL UFMCC

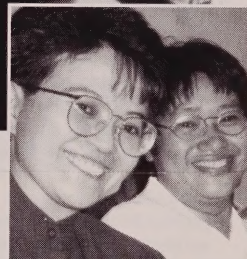
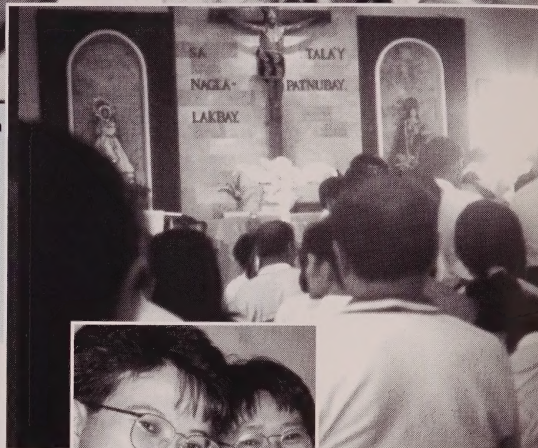
Rev. Judy Dahl,
Global Outreach

that her uncle had died. As God would have it, we were scheduled to arrive the night before the funeral.

Participating in this funeral was an incredible learning experience and a deep spiritual journey. The morning began about ten o'clock as family and friends gathered in the home of the deceased. The living area of the home had been turned into a shrine of Jose Bugay, her uncle. As the hearse arrived, different generations of family, the very young

children, the cousins, the second cousins, third cousins, siblings, and distant relatives took turns in groups, honoring their loved one as they filed by the casket for their final respects. This was a deeply moving process. The procession to the church encompassed the entire village. The mass was filled with the beautiful singing of the Filipino people. From the church we processed through the town to the next village where Jose was honored for his

MCC Manila is aglow with renewed spirit, energy, and a future filled with possibilities.



of topics. Our last Saturday night, Gloria and I met with women from two different lesbian groups in Manila. One group has a great name which

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

New UFMCC Controller

We are pleased to announce that Richard A. "Rick" Capnerhurst is the new UFMCC Controller. Rick was most recently a financial analyst with Capital One



Financial Services in Richmond, VA, and has a strong background in budget preparation, cost-saving analysis, and financial reporting. He has been a member of MCC-Richmond, VA for seven years, has been active in AIDS ministry, and participated in the 1993

UFMCC General Conference. He began his new position with UFMCC Headquarters on February 9th.

In announcing the hiring of Richard Capnerhurst, UFMCC Administration noted, "Rick makes an excellent addition to the team at UFMCC Headquarters. His unique blend of formal accounting skills and friendly demeanor will make for a smooth transition. Rick is a highly competent, personable and outgoing team player who will bring to UFMCC several years of experience in Human Resources and Finance. We have been blessed in finding Rick!"

accomplishments as an outstanding politician and citizen. The trek to the cemetery seemed to gather even more people so there were hundreds present for the burial. Once Jose was interned red and white balloons were released and a new spirit was released. The evening ended as all gathered to say the rosary. My Catholic heart felt such a kindred connection and it was such a sweet ending to a long day of tribute and love.

All that before we even got to Manila!

Our ministry began with MCC Manila. The Pastor, Edgar Mendoza and the Board of Directors shared in an all day seminar exploring Spiritual Gifts and leadership training.

Our first Sunday, Gloria preached and touched the hearts and lives of the church. There were 46 people in worship, including 15 women, the most ever at an MCC Manila service! Gloria will be returning to the Philippines upon completion of her seminary training in two years. The following night we led a healing service and the Holy Spirit awakened new and profound emotions and gifts among us! The singing again was full and so sweet! The remainder of the second week we did nightly three-hour seminars on a variety

really speaks of the need for an MCC in the Philippines: CLIC (Can't Live In the Closet). Fifteen women from these groups joined us and discussed their excitement about MCC developments in the Philippines.

Our last Sunday was a real highlight! A Holy Union took place during the worship service, so there were nearly a 100 people present for the service. Now that is a real feat in a building designed to hold about 30 maximum. People were everywhere and the Spirit was high and wide with us.

Pastor Edgar is attending seminary, with thanks to Maranatha Fellowship MCC and Jesus MCC and Rev. Elder Roy Birchard, who helped with his seminary expenses every month. He is enjoying school, delighted to return to ministry and asks for all your prayers as he pursues this challenging task and dreams big! The Board of Directors is a united group of five. One afternoon we worked to develop a ministry plan for 1998 and to create a new mission and vision for the church. They will be a church of 200 by the year 2000! We all believe it! They are eager to grow and develop MCC Manila and they are preparing for the miracles God has in store for them!

Thanks Edgar, Malu, Efren, Andy and Arlene! You are doing marvelous work and we support you! Gloria and I really had the sense that God is going to do some very powerful and exciting ministry with and among

our MCC in Manila and spreading throughout the Philippines. God was with us every step of our trip. One reason we were so blessed was the prayer presence from our sisters and brothers of MCC Long Beach. Thank you and God bless you! Your prayers made all the difference!

If you or your church would like to be part of the growing, Spirit-filled ministry of MCC Manila, please contact the Director of Global Outreach, UFMCC 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069. Fax 310-360-8680 Phone 310-360-8640 or e-mail Rev. Judy Dahl: revjdahl@ufmcchq.com.

Special Needs of MCC Manila: Money for books for Pastor Edgar Mendoza's seminary classes, a guitar, a keyboard, rent for a MUCH NEEDED new and bigger church space, Bible Study materials, leader and participant guides/workbooks.

Financial and Tax Planning for Clergy

There are a number of helpful resources out there to help clergy with financial planning and taxes. Here is a sampling:

Abingdon Clergy Income Tax Guide, 1998 Edition, Deloitte; available in the US and Canada for US\$19.71; and in Australia and New Zealand for A\$26.93. You can reach Abingdon on the Internet at www.opengroup.com/open/cdbooks.

Church Law and Tax Report offers a Church & Clergy Tax Guide for 1998, a Compensation Handbook for clergy and a number of financial management resources for churches. You can reach them at Christian Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 1098, Matthews, NC 28106 or toll-free at 1-800-222-1840.



Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

Church Tax Net offers services to clergy in the United States (in all 50 states). Their website address is www.clergytaxnet.com

or you can reach them at P.O. Box 248, Hanover, MN 55341-0248, or by phone at 1-612-682-2779.

Clergy Financial Services has a very useful Clergy Finance Letter, available by subscription for US\$20 per year. You can reach them at P.O. Box 6007, Grand Rapids, MI 49516 or by phone at 1-616-956-0087. It includes all sorts of financial information for US clergy, including tax information.

The Calling, a quarterly publication free to religious professionals, is published by Ministers Life Resources, and frequently has financial information for clergy as well as other useful articles. You can sign up for a free subscription at their website: www.thecalling.com or by phone at

1-800-328-6124, or by mail at 400 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101-2098.

Gear Up Tax Seminars offers a course on US taxation issues for clergy available by audio tape, with a manual and exam for \$39. You can find their website at www.interlink2000.com/cpalink/cpetax or contact them at 450 San Antonio Road, #5, Palo Alto, CA 94306 or by phone at 1-800-231-1860.

You can also contact your government's revenue service for information about clergy taxes: In Canada, you can view Revenue Canada's website at www.rc.gc.ca or call them at 1-800-461-9999. In the United Kingdom, contact the Public Enquiry Unit of the Treasury. On the web, look for www.hm-treasury.gov.uk, e-mail them at Claire.Coast-Smith@hm-treasury.gov.uk or call 0171 270 4558.

In the United States, you can find information on clergy taxes (Publication 417) at the Internal Revenue website www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/tax_edu/teletax/tc417.html. There are links from that page to the necessary forms. You can also call 1-800-829-3676 to order Publication 517, Social Security for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers

Building Bridges with the Body of Christ

For the first time, MCC San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church held a joint Wednesday Evening Taize Service. Although these two churches are only 1 block apart it is amazing that this was never done before. It was a powerful experience and one that many in both congregations agreed they would like to do again. As one of the sisters from Most Holy Redeemer said "we all preach from one gospel and worship the same God."

The congregations prayed together for Christian unity and understanding in the love that Jesus shows us. One MCC-SF member noted, "I encourage each of you to reach out to congregations

Congratulations to the **Cathedral of Promise** MCC Mass Choir (Sacramento, CA), which took first place in a multi-county choral contest. ■ **The Northwest District's** 25th Annual Women's Retreat will take place May 28-31. For details, contact **Susan Van Houten** by e-mail at vandp@aol.com. ■ **The Rev. Becky Dickman**, pastor of **Appalachian MCC** (Charleston, WV) in December. Seventy people attended the ordination including 10 from around the District, many friends and her partner's (**Karen Dickman**) parents from Pittsburgh, PA. This was also the one year anniversary of Appalachian MCC - West Virginia's only MCC congregation. ■ **Rev. Jim Mitulski** of **MCC San Francisco**, CA, has been selected for the the National Religious Leadership Program sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion and the Hartford Seminary and funded by the Lily Endowment. ■ Congratulations to **MCC Austin**, TX, which closed on the purchase of 10 acres for their new worship facility. ■ **The Rev. Nancy Horvath**, who was installed as pastor of **Wichita Falls MCC**, Texas on January 18. ■ Congratulations to the **Rev. Kathy Baker** who was unanimously elected pastor of **MCC in Charlottesville**, VA. ■ **MCC of Northern Virginia** held their first worship service in their new building with an attendance of 111 people and a powerful worship service. ■ **Family of God MCC** (Columbus, GA) has called the **Rev. Emily Bel** to be their pastor.

PRAYERS:

Prayers are requested for **Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart** and his family as his father recently passed away after a lengthy illness. ■ **New Heart MCC** (Tacoma, WA) needs prayers as they have been the victim of three burglaries within a three week period. ■ Prayers are requested for the **Rev. Colleen Darraugh** of **Harvest MCC** (Denton, TX) who broke her right wrist in two places.



and try the same thing if you haven't already. I think you will be rewarded beyond measure."

Scottish MCC Expands Services

After two and a half years of worshipping bi-monthly, Holy Trinity MCC (Edinburgh, Scotland) will expand to weekly worship services in April. Although weekly worship may be the norm within UFMCC (and is indeed required by Bylaws) this represents an significant step of faith for this congregation.

Stephen Harte, treasurer of the local congregation, noted, "We are a fully lay lead and empowered congregation where everyone is encouraged to take part in liturgy. We are committed to making use of as many worship styles as possible. The prayers of the Fellowship are sought as we move into this exciting phase of our growth as a congregation. With God, all things are possible."

First MCC Reaches Out to Homeless

First MCC of Wichita, Kansas (FMCC), where the Rev. Shelley Hamilton is pastor, is not only helping the homeless in their community, but they are coming out as G/L/B/T Christians at the same time. FMCC is housing some of the community's homeless during the tough winter months when the Interfaith Inn, the

homeless shelter in Wichita run by Interfaith Ministries, has an overflow of clients due to the harsh winter weather.

Terry Crosby, Vice-Moderator of the Board of Directors at FMCC, said this is the second year that the church has participated in this program. Last year they provided food and shelter for about 60 individuals for one week during the winter. This year they have extended the stay to two weeks for about the same number of people. The church opens its fellowship hall, which is outfitted with cots and blankets provided by the Interfaith Inn. They serve dinner at 6:00 PM, after that every one is in for the night. Breakfast is served at a bright and early 6:00 AM.

The shelter provides FMCC the opportunity to give back to the larger Wichita community and to network with other G/L groups. "It was an extraordinary opportunity to work in partnership with many different people in an effort to relieve human suffering," said Rev. Hamilton. "When our vision and hearts move beyond ourselves we can more fully understand ourselves to be a part of a greater human community."

Work Camp Repairs Mexico City Church

Friends y Compañeros was a work camp sponsored by Maranatha Fellowship MCC under the direction of Jim Wunrow. During the US Thanksgiving holidays (Nov. 22-Dec.1), a group of workers, representing eight different MCC churches, participated in the final renovations of ICM Reconciliation (Mexico), pastored by Rev. Elder Jorge Sosa. The volunteers along with

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■ Members from eight MCC churches gathered in Mexico City to help get the church back on its feet after earlier vandalism.



along with the local congregants worked to lay ceramic floor tile, place ceiling tiles above the altar, and repair electrical outlets.

The work team also participated in the Sunday Celebration Service. A music team, under the direction of Robin Miller, joined the ICM choir to bring together music of both cultures. During the service, Valda Lewis greeted the congregation in Spanish, expressing our gratitude for their hospitality and their warmth.

Rev. Elder Jorge Sosa demonstrated his gratitude to each one of the work camp participants by giving a personal note to the individual team members. This is something to be cherished, along with the friendships that were formed throughout the week. When we left Mexico City, we realized that we had found a family that not only shared our sexual orientation, but also our God.

The next projected trip will be: 1998, Lima, Peru. For more information you can contact Jim Wunrow, Maranatha Fellowship MCC, P.O. Box 667032, Houston, TX 77266-7032.

MCC Confronts "Ex-Gay Ministry" with Truth and Love

When an anti-gay "Transformational Ministry" workshop came to San Diego recently, Pastor Tony Freeman and the members of MCC San Diego (MCCSD) turned the event into a celebration of open

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmccq.com Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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Director of Communications

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Ravi Verma, Chief Operating Officer

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev. Steve Pieters

Graphic Design: NormMason@worldshapes.com 213-413-6039



and affirming congregations with a message of hope for the gay and lesbian communities.

"God loves us just the way we are, and God's unconditional love, not a crushing of one's God-given identity, is what's truly transformational," said Pastor Freeman. "We believe that homosexuality is not a sin or sickness, that Scripture does not condemn loving, responsible homosexual relationships, and that gays and lesbians should be accepted in all places of worship."

But in the weeks preceding the workshop, the question arose of how to respond. Should MCC stage a protest outside the Claremont church? What would be most effective, and appropriate?

For Rev. Tony, the answer was to be found in the principles of soul force, as outlined by Dr. Mel White from his study of Jesus, King, and Gandhi. A central soul force tenet is to confront untruth through constructive works.

Thinking constructively, MCC San Diego recognized the immediate need of those attending or affected by the workshop and designed as a response that would reach out to anyone interested in an alternative point of view and those who might need pastoral care.

It was decided that support would be available not only during the workshop but late into that night when the negative psychological reaction from the workshop's "deprogramming" would be at its worst. Pastoral care and guidance would be made available on a 24-hour hotline throughout the weekend. A licensed therapist also would be on call.

MCCSD also joined hands with seven local churches and community organizations for a major press conference, followed by community service themed "The Transforming Power of Love."

On the day of the "ex-gay" workshop, well-trained MCC volunteers led by Rev. Freeman stood on the

sidewalk and handed out "Homosexuality: Not a Sin, Not a Sickness" brochures along with an invitation to a day-long vigil of individual prayer, music, special reading and community prayer.

The members of MCC San Diego offer a powerful example of Christ-like response in the face of anti-gay rhetoric.

Matthews-Naylor Selected for Care Program

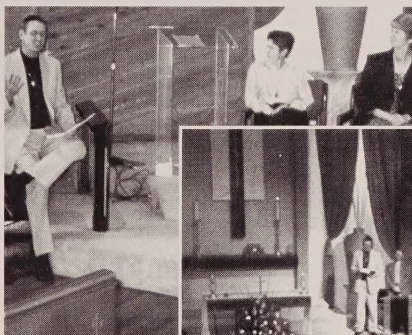
Rev. Carl Matthews-Naylor, pastor of the MCC of the Rainbow in Jackson, Mississippi, has been selected along with fourteen additional area clergy to enter the Pastoral Care Specialist Program offered by the Samaritan Counseling Center. The Center is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Hospital System and is an interfaith health care network with a mission of helping people grow toward health and wholeness.

Rev. Matthews-Naylor is the first openly gay minister to be accepted into this program and was awarded a full scholarship to attend. Upon successful completion of the program he will be eligible for membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors as a Pastoral Care Specialist.

Dr. Guibord New U.S. Ecumenical Officer

Dr. Gwynne Guibord has been appointed US National Ecumenical Officer by the UFMCC Board of Elders. Dr. Guibord brings a passionate commitment to ecumenical work to her new position. She currently serves on the Progressive Religious Alliance (Vice Chair), California Council of Churches Impact (Vice Chair), Southern California Ecumenical Council (Executive Board), and the Mobilization for the Human Family (National Advisory Board). Dr. Guibord also serves on Claremont

School of Theology's National Advisory Board. A Service of Installation took



MCC San Diego followed up a press conference, left, with an interfaith service.



Would you like to be a part of an increasing outreach to a major community? Would you like to pastor a church with successful ministries of deacons, music, and prayer partners? Would you like to live and work in a loving metropolitan city? Would you like to pastor a congregation of 100+ and growing? Then you are the pastor for us!!! MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO, is in the process of looking for a senior pastor. If interested, please send updated resume, statement of faith and recent video taped sermon to: Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 38069, St. Louis, MO 63138.

Loving church in Detroit area seeks part-time pastor to promote growth, outreach and spiritual development. Contact Divine Peace MCC at P. O. Box 71938, Madison Hts., MI 48071 or call (248) 544-8335.

Are you an outgoing person who can share our vision, including church growth, a new worship space, and increased outreach in the community? Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, a small Chartered church, seeks a full-time pastor. If you are interested in leading a congregation with 23 years of commitment to Christ in central Iowa, send your resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 8426, Des Moines, Iowa 50301.

Enjoy a serene "mountain high" in Fort Collins, Colorado, a university city nestled at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains. MCC Family in Christ is seeking a dynamic, people-centered, spirit-filled Pastor with strong pastoral care and spiritual development skills. We're a small, energetic congregation with incredible potential for growth. Long-term commitment desired; start part-time, but progress to full time as you help us grow. UFMCC credentialing preferred. If a future near the mountains interests you, send letter of inquiry by February 7, 1998 to Pastoral Search, MCC Family in Christ, 805 S. Shields Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

MCC Charlotte (North Carolina), a chartered church with 135+ members seeks enthusiastic and experienced preacher/teacher/mentor for full-time Senior Pastor position. Dynamic preaching a must. Resumes/tapes accepted until position is filled. Contact: MCCC Pastoral Search Committee, 4037 East Independence Blvd. Suite 300, Charlotte, NC. 28205. (704) 563-5810.

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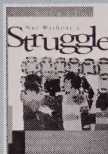
POSITION OF DEAN. The Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies in Dallas, Texas seeks applications to fill the position of Dean. The Samaritan Institute provides non-homophobic theological education for religious and community leadership. The student body numbers 80 persons pursuing ordination in UFMCC ministry; 30 candidates for ordination annually in the residency program; and 100+ persons annually seeking leadership training skills for church and community growth and networking. Applicants should have background skills in administration and finance, development and higher education. Applicants should evidence a commitment to the church and ministry of UFMCC and be able to work with diverse constituencies across a broad geographical area. Applicants must have a Master of Divinity Degree; a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in bible, Theology or Religion is preferred. The applicant must be able to relocate to Dallas, Texas. Send or fax resume/references to Chair, Samaritan Search Committee, MCC-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Fax number: (415) 431-9813 No Telephone inquiries. Deadline is February 25, 1998.

MCC Asheville seeks a full time pastor for our congregation of 50 members. The Asheville, NC area has a population over 200,000 and is located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. We are looking for a pastor who is strong in congregational care, worship, and outreach. We currently share space with another church, but are actively looking for our own space. Please send letters of inquiry to MCC Asheville Pastoral Search, PO box 2359, Asheville, NC 28802.

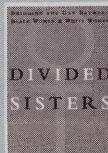
UFMCC Resource Center



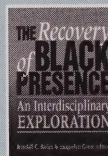
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the impact of culture on the
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Henry H. Mitchell and
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This book first defines the need for
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■ Dr. Gwynne
Guibord
celebrated
communion at
her service of
installation as
UFMCC U.S.
Ecumenical
Officer.



place at Metropolitan Community Church Los Angeles on Sunday, Dec. 11, and was officiated by the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, who continues as UFMCC's Chief Ecumenical Officer.

Out of her initial ecumenical dialog in this new position, Dr. Guibord arranged for Dr. Eileen Lindner, Associate General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (US) to preach at MCC Los Angeles, UFMCC's "Mother Church," during February.

Justice Minister Returns from Ghandi Visit

This year we celebrate the memorial anniversaries of Gandhi (assassinated 50 years ago on January 30, 1948) and Martin Luther King, Jr. (assassinated 30 years ago on April 4, 1968). In India and the U.S. we keep alive the national memory of these two heroic figures, but we have let die any memory



JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

of (let alone any commitment to) the list of vows, pledges, or promises that they lost their lives urging us to keep.

From his primitive little office in Sevagram, the village ashram that was his home from 1935 until his assassination in 1948, Gandhi led the Satyagraha ("soulforce") movement that would liberate India from British rule. Posted just outside the door were the eleven vows that Gandhi required his followers to take. Both Gandhi and King (a follower of Gandhi's "soulforce" rules) required marchers to sign variations of those vows. (See samples of those vows below.)

Last month, as I sat outside Gandhi's little office in India, staring at those vows that Gandhi kept scrupulously, I realized that I have made no formal, written vows to God or to my fellow man or woman. I have no specific promises to keep, no solemn, binding pledge that guides my path, no clear life-goals and therefore no clear life-plan to reach those goals. Do you?

My religious tradition honors the Commandments that Moses brought down from the mount. I learned the 'golden rule' of Jesus as a child. And I am committed in various (and usually) unspoken ways to God, to Gary, to my family and friends, my church, my country, the world, but at those seminal moments in history when justice and freedom were at stake, Gandhi and King committed themselves and their colleagues to

very specific vows, written pledges, signed promises; vows, they admit, based in large part on the commands of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). And both men insist that keeping those very specific vows was necessary, not just for the liberation of society, but for individual spiritual renewal.

On this trip to India, I read Jesus' sermon over and over again, asking myself what are the vows that Jesus, Gandhi, and King had in common and what have those vows to do with those of us who are committed to the liberation of God's lesbian and gay children? And it seems to me that the reason

so many of us live ineffective, unfulfilling lives is that we have failed to take the vows seriously.

After these three years studying Gandhi and King, I am convinced that the movement to liberate lesbians and gays will only succeed when we and our allies adapt the soulforce vows to our day and time, sign those vows individually, and then do our best to keep those vows faithfully. The most effective way to prove that Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell are wrong about lesbians and gays, is by setting these high soulforce standards for our daily lives and then by trying our best to keep those standards.

For the transformation of society and the renewal of our own individual spirits, what specific vows, pledges, promises would we sign and try to keep? Here is a summary of the soulforce vows of Gandhi and King (based, in large part, on the teachings of Jesus). What would happen to us, to our Fellowship, and to our world if we took these vows (or any vows) seriously?

Vows Taken by Marchers with Gandhi, 1939

1. To have a living faith in God.
2. To believe in truth and nonviolence, therefore, have faith in the inherent goodness of human nature which will evoke truth and love expressed through suffering.

3. To lead a chaste life and be willing for the sake of the cause to give up life and possessions.
4. To be a habitual khadi-wearer and spinner. [An appeal to wear only simple, home-made clothing]
5. To be a teetotaler, free from all intoxicants.
6. To carry out with a willing heart all the rules of discipline as may be laid down from time to time.
7. To carry out the jail rules unless they are especially devised to hurt his self-respect.

Vows Taken by Marchers with Dr. King, 1963

1. Meditate daily on the life and teachings of Jesus,
2. Remember that nonviolence seeks justice and reconcilia-

- tion - not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love; for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God that all men and women might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes that all might be free.
6. Observe with friend & foes the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from violence of fist, tongue, and heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. Follow directions of the Movement leaders on demonstrations.

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1

1998 Leadership Conference Registration Form

"Excellence in Ministry"

August 13-16, 1998, Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs, Phoenix, Arizona

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Church attended _____

Registration Fees and Information:

- ☐ Early Registration: Postmarked before June 1, 1998 \$150.00 (US)
☐ Late Registration: Postmarked before July 31, 1998 \$175.00 (US)
☐ On-Site Registration At The Pointe, Phoenix, AZ \$200.00 (US)

- ☐ One Day Registration (Discounts/scholarships do not apply. \$75.00 (US)
 Check one day only: ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

- ☐ Children/Youth Registration Ages 17 and younger. FREE
 Check to receive Children/Youth registration information ☐

- ☐ Young Adult Registration Discount Ages 18 to 30. Deduct \$40.00 (US)

- ☐ Outside United States Registration Discount Deduct \$40.00 (US)

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed (US funds only payable to UFMCC Leadership Conference)
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Special Needs:

- ☐ Sign Language Interpretation ☐ Spanish Translation ☐ Vegetarian Meals
☐ Other (Specify): _____

Lodging:

Rooms at the Pointe Hilton are \$82.00 (US) plus tax, single or double occupancy; \$15.00 (US) for additional persons. To make reservations call the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs direct at 1-800-876-4683 or 602-866-7500 and ask for reservations.

Return Form With Payment To:

UFMCC Leadership Conference, ATTN: Nancy Fackrell
 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, Second Floor,
 West Hollywood, CA 90069
 fax: (310) 360-8680, or e-mail: nfackrell@ufmccchq.com



■ The Pointe in Phoenix, Arizona is a favorite UFMCC location for conferences.



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - DECEMBER 1997

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$4,585.52
2. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$3,250.95
3. MCC New York, New York, NY	\$3,134.74
4. MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$2,917.61
5. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$2,280.66
6. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$2,086.04
7. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$1,561.43
8. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,514.49
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$1,487.16
10. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN	\$1,331.13
11. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$1,272.59
12. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	\$1,269.50
13. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$1,156.35
14. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$1,067.87
15. St. John The Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL	\$1,018.82
16. MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD	\$ 909.07
17. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	\$ 887.94
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis, MO	\$ 864.79
19. Agape' MCC, Fort Worth, TX	\$ 834.32
20. MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY	\$ 820.71

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - DECEMBER 1997

1. MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, VA	68.68
2. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	63.48
3. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA	45.84
4. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA	41.11
5. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	38.09
6. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	37.83
7. Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ	35.86
8. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	32.77
9. MCC New York, New York, NY	32.38
10. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL	31.21
11. Gentle Shepherd MCC, Tallahassee, FL	30.93
12. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	30.45
13. MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA	30.15
14. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	26.23
15. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY	24.33
16. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC	23.75
17. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN	22.79
18. Morning Star MCC, Cherry Valley, MA	22.78
19. First Coast MCC, St. Augustine, FL	21.98
20. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	21.97

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

December 1997
January 1998

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

Rev. Perry Returns for Second White House Visit

The Rev. Troy Perry, Moderator of UFMCC, joined 120 religious leaders for a breakfast meeting with US President Clinton on Nov. 20. The meeting provided an opportunity for the President to recognize the contributions of these religious leaders to the good of society.

The event, which was scheduled to last two hours, stretched to three hours as the President and Vice President took questions from the assembled group.

During his breakfast meeting today, Perry had a one-on-one discussion with Vice President Gore, and commended the Vice President for his support of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. The Vice President, in turn, commended Perry for both his spiritual and civil rights work, and indicated his familiarity with UFMCC's ministry.

Perry noted, "Two weeks ago, I was invited to the White House as a civil rights activist for the gay and lesbian community. Today, I was invited for my role as a spiritual leader. Both roles are important to me, and are vital to furthering the cause of social and spiritual justice for all our people."

Prior to the breakfast, Perry received calls from two White House aides assuring him that the President was not swayed by the protests from the Religious Right and confirming that the President was honored to host Perry at the White House. In a show of support for the attacks on UFMCC, Perry was seated in the front row of the breakfast at the table next to the Vice President and two tables from the President.

Excellent Location for "Excellence in Ministry" Leadership Conference

Nathan Meckley

1998 Leadership Conference. "Excellence in Ministry," will be held August 13 -16 at the Pointe Hilton Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. This beautiful site was the location of UFMCC General Conferences in 1991 and 1993 as well as 1992 Leadership Conference. Rated four-diamonds and four-stars, the Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs is a premier resort terraced along the slopes of the Phoenix

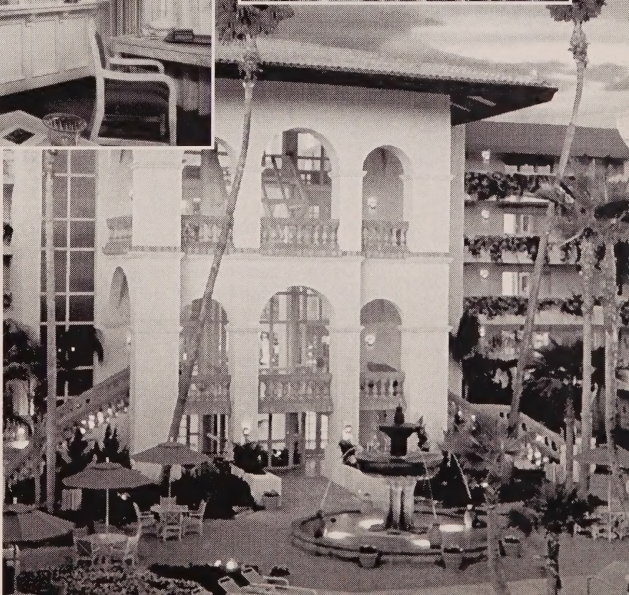
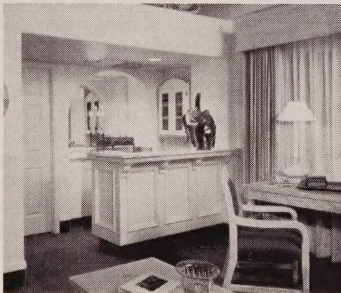
North Mountain Preserve, offering fun and relaxation in the sun and panoramic valley views. An award-winning golf course, tennis courts, horseback riding, swimming pools, and poolside cabanas make for a resort which everyone can enjoy. Three on-site restaurants and two poolside cafes make meals convenient and luxurious two-room suites equipped with every amenity provide comfort for all. The Pointe now boasts completely renovated guest rooms and "The Falls" - a three-and-a-half acre oasis of waterfalls, swimming pools, and terraces. A must see! The best news is the confirmed room rate for our Leadership Conference -- \$82.00 (US) single or double occupancy! To find even more detailed information, from rooms to restaurants, about the Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatio Cliffs, check out their website at <http://www.hilton.com/hotels/PHXTCPR/index.html>.

Reflecting the Leadership Conference theme, "Excellence in Ministry," workshops, worship services and special plenary sessions will introduce and focus on "Benchmarks of Excellence" which help to identify common functions and develop tools your church can use to improve its ministry. Speed Leas, author and senior consultant with the Alban Institute, will be a featured guest speaking on "Understanding Your Congregation As a System" and conflict management.

Make plans for pastoral staff, lay leaders, members of Boards of Directors, and everyone enthusiastic about improving the ministry of your church to attend. A terrific conference in a fantastic location -- you're guaranteed to return home with new ideas and renewed energy for ministry!

UP FRONT

**The Pointe in
Phoenix, Arizona
is a favorite
UFMCC location
for conferences.**



Emmanuel MCC Feeds 900 on Thanksgiving

Emmanuel MCC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, celebrated the recent US Thanksgiving holiday by serving more than 900 meals to the homeless in the name of Christ. According to the Rev. Pat Langlois, pastor of Emmanuel MCC, "Even though it was hailing, raining and slushing through the day, we were determined to make sure that even those who could not make it to our facilities had, at least for a day, a warm meal and a lot of love."

Emmanuel MCC also used the event to build bridges to other organizations, partnering with PFLAG, MCC of Albuquerque, and local Presbyterian and evangelical churches to generate 150 volunteers. These volunteers served 60 meals at the Domestic Violence Shelter, 65 meals to shut-in senior adults and AIDS hospice patients, and served numerous meals to homeless persons living under bridges and in local parks. Says Langlois, "This is what ecumenical work and church is all about! God's presence and love truly knows no boundaries!"

MCC Communion Held in Russia

When the Rev. Steve Taylor, former interim pastor of MCC Washington, and Alex, a gay Christian from St. Petersburg, Russia recently celebrated communion in Moscow, they helped to fulfill UFMCC's vision statement which proclaims that "we will meet the justice and faith needs of people

■ **Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, right, and Dr. Gwynne Guibord, left, travelled to Geneva recently to meet with Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the WCC.**

in increasing numbers of countries and cultures." This is believed to be the first MCC communion celebrated in the former Soviet Union, according to the Rev. Judy Dahl, UFMCC Director of Global Outreach. Alex has been corresponding with UFMCC Headquarters during the past year on behalf of a group of gay and lesbian Christians in Russia, and is exploring options to begin UFMCC's first Russian congregation.

Blessings Continue to Flow from Sydney Conference

God's blessings continue to flow from UFMCC's General Conference in Sydney, Australia. Following Conference, Arthur Clark and Terry Michael, members of Faith Eternal MCC (Springfield, IL), made a stop on the island of Fiji. While there they visited the neighboring village on two occasions, and discovered a local need for a kindergarten. A common building was available to the villagers, but the government of Fiji required repairs to the building, including new gutters and a water catch tank -- at a cost of almost \$700 US.

On Oct. 27, 1997, Faith Eternal MCC held a Fiji Night. Guests were entertained with a video made in and around the village along with items manufactured in Fiji and Fijian clothing. Guests also enjoyed a dinner of Fijian chicken. Friends and members of Faith Eternal MCC raised \$371 to help the village install the new gutters and water tank, and Envoy Travel donated another \$50.

Thanks to the friends and members of Faith Eternal MCC, 18 very special children are now attending kindergarten in Fiji. Ministry in action!

Ex-Gay Information Needed

Rev. Tony Freeman, pastor of MCC San Diego is working with Dr. Mel White to compile updated information to combat the untruths being told by so-called "ex-gay ministries." Together, they are preparing a bold response to a national "ex-gay" convention to be held on Jan. 24, 1998.

As part of their research, Rev. Freeman is seeking one-page stories or testimonies from UFMCC members and friends who have been through "ex-gay" ministries. These testimonies should include the following information: What led you to an ex-gay ministry? What claims were made by the "ex-gay" leaders? What level of



"success" did you see in these groups? What prompted you to leave? Any other relevant information on your experience will be appreciated.

You may e-mail your story to: PastorSD@aol.com. Or testimonies may be mailed to the Rev. Tony Freeman, MCC San Diego, P.O. Box 33291, San Diego, CA 92163. Faxes may be sent to (619) 280-7744.

UFMCC/NCC Hold First Formal Discussions in Five Years

As Dr. Gwynne Guibord and I recently flew over the Alps, preparing to land in Geneva, Switzerland, we prayed that our trip would be a successful one.



Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
Ecumenical Officer

Geneva, a beautiful, old city on Lake Geneva is home to The World Council of Churches Headquarters, as well as the European Headquarters of the United Nations. We were traveling to Geneva at the invitation of Dr. Konrad Raiser, the WCC's General Secretary, to discuss UFMCC's relationship to the Council, and our participation in the upcoming General Assembly, in 1998, in Harare, Zimbabwe.

We were met at the airport by someone I had first met in 1991, in Canberra Australia, at the last General Assembly, Dr. Bob Scott, Executive Staff with WCC's Programme to Combat Racism. Bob is an openly gay Anglican Priest from New Zealand. He was a marvelous host for our trip. Over the next three days, Bob introduced us to many of the key World Council staff, gave us a tour of the WCC Headquarters, and took us with him to the United Nations Indigenous People's Conference.

Bob also hosted a dinner for us in his home, that included Dr. Raiser and his wife, Elisabeth Raiser, gay and straight World Council staff members, personnel from the World Reform Alliance, and the Lutheran World Federation. At his home, in an atmosphere that was ecumenical, eclectic, and multicultural, Bob toasted us with the words, "Welcome (UFMCC) to the ecumenical family."

The highlight of the visit was a two hour meeting with Dr. Raiser, who travels almost as much as Troy Perry! Gwynne invited him to visit UFMCC Headquarters, to bring a "living letter" to our community, and to participate in our worship.

WASHINGTON D.C. IN APRIL

UFMCC Sponsors African-American Conference

"In Our Own Language: A Conference for African-Americans in UFMCC" is an historic conference which will take place in suburban Washington, DC April 16-18, 1998, providing an opportunity for African-Americans in UFMCC to affirm who we are in UFMCC and to celebrate the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring.

This is the first UFMCC conference entirely organized by, about and for African-Americans. Join the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, the Rev. Sandra Robinson of Samaritan Institute, along with the Rev. Dellyne Russell-Hinton, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown-Douglas and other African-American leaders for three days of planning, worshiping, dreaming, praying and networking. Brochures are available at your local MCC, or contact Yvonne Thompson

or Nancy Fackrell at UFMCC Headquarters. They may be reached by phone at (310) 360-8640, by fax at (310) 350-8680, or by e-mail at Info@ufmcchq.com.

Join us in Washington, DC April 16-18 as we together make history at "In Our Own Language: A Conference for African-Americans in UFMCC."

in our own language
A Conference for African-Americans in UFMCC

"In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power"

7-960 211

In our meeting, we discussed the current situation of human rights for Gays and Lesbians in Zimbabwe. In addition, we shared with Dr. Raiser our long and tumultuous history with the U.S. NCC, and thanked him for being proactive in inviting us for dialogue with Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe and with Gay and Lesbian supportive people in member churches of the WCC.

We affirmed with Dr. Raiser that membership in WCC is our goal. But at this assembly we are not raising the issue, rather we are supporting the WCC in its efforts to clarify its support for human rights for all people, including gays and lesbians.

We are participating in the General Assembly by offering a seminar on "Introducing MCC," offering two worship services and staffing a table at the "Padare," (similar to our General Conference Resource Expo). We have also been invited by the Director of the Institute to teach, sometime in 1998. While I was there, I met with the WCC Press Officer, and the staff of their ecumenical news service. We also had the privilege of sharing in a small communion service led by Bob Scott, in which we were invited to assist.

Two weeks later, Gwynne Guibord flew to Washington D.C. to represent UFMCC at the National Council of Churches. For the first time in five years, we had a formal discussion with the NCC that included Dr. Joan Campbell, (General Secretary), Dr. Eileen Lindner, (Associate General Secretary), Bishop Mel Talbert, (outgoing President), and Bishop Craig Anderson, (incoming President).

The meetings were cordial, and very direct. UFMCC reaffirmed that our goals have never changed: to always be a loving witness to God's presence in our communities, and to be members of NCC. Dr. Campbell made the statement, "We are pleased that UFMCC has re-opened discussions with us." Dr. Campbell also indicated that UFMCC will be invited to address the next general Board Meeting in 1998.

Thanks to MCC Washington, D.C. for their support and help during these meetings. Thanks to Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, who was able to attend NCC's Women's Caucus. Gwynne also chaired the Plenary Session of the Gay/Lesbian Caucus Breakfast.

■ **Representing UFMCC at the recent Creating Change Conference: Rev. Jim Mitulski, left, Dr. Robert Goss, Rev. Jill Nelson, Rev. Justin Tanis and Luis Ramirez.**



Mel White to Visit Ghandi's Family, Releases New Video

On Sunday, December 14, Mel travels to Delhi, India, to begin a five-week study tour with Arun Gandhi, the Mahatma's grandson. Mel will meet with leaders of the nonviolent justice movement and visit historic sites associated with India's struggle for independence, as well as Gandhi ashrams, archives, and study centers.



JUSTICE

**Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice**

Mel and his partner, Gary Nixon, have just released their new Soulforce video, *How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me, Too?* This is Mel's response "...to those who misuse the Bible to make God's lesbian and gay children feel like outcasts." Videos can be ordered by sending a check made out to Video 2 for \$10 each (to cover the costs of duplicating, packaging, and mailing) to Soulforce Videos, P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652.

UFMCC Represented at Creating Change Conference

Stephanie Burns, MCC Northern Virginia

UFMCC was well-represented at the recent Creating Change Conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. UFMCCers including Dr. Mel White, the Rev. Justin Tanis, the Rev. Jim Mitulski, Dr. Bob Goss, the Rev. Jill Nelson, James Birkitt, the Rev. Colleen Darragh, Luis Ramirez, the Rev. Penny Nixon, and Stephanie Burns joined more than 2000 g/l/b/t activists for five days of workshops, seminars, plenaries and strategy sessions.

Faith activists in our movement still confront many challenges. Many of us have been hurt by the religions of our childhood, many of us struggle within our denominations for greater respect for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people, and many of us have worked hard to create new and welcoming forums for our spiritual expression. Faith activists are sometimes viewed suspiciously by other political organizers. For some of us in our movement, we've been faced with the false choice between expressing our spirituality and making social change.

Spirituality and social change found common ground at the 1997 Creating Change Conference in San Diego, CA, held Nov. 12-16. On Friday, Nov. 14th, over 40 faith activists, organizers and leaders gathered for an Interfaith Leadership Roundtable to discuss issues, ideas and brainstorm on common goals.

One of the common themes of the roundtable was the need for unity to bring our communities together instead of letting our differences tear us apart. As a result, a Statement of Shared Values was developed and was presented to the entire conference at the closing plenary.

In addition to the Interfaith Leadership Roundtable, there

The Strategic Growth Initiative has expanded to England. The **Rev. Elder Don Eastman** visited **MCC Bournemouth, MCC North London**, and **MCC Manchester** to help with planning and sustaining growth in churches. ■ Congratulations to **Nathan Meckley**, executive associate at UFMCC Headquarters! Nathan recently observed his 10th anniversary on Fellowship staff. ■ The new **General Council Minutes** have been printed. UFMCC Headquarters is offering 50 free copies to the first 50 persons who request a copy. ■ **MCC Detroit** will feed more than 1500 people at the Central Methodist Church on Christmas Day as part of the annual Christmas Dinner for the Homeless. This is the 24th consecutive year for this community event. ■ **Rev. Marcie Wexler** was installed as the pastor of **Holy Fellowship MCC** (London, Ontario, Canada) on Nov. 23, 1997. Rev. Wexler's family traveled from the United States to be with her for the installation service. ■ The new e-mail address for the **Northeast District** is NEDUFMCC@aol.com. ■ Congratulations to **Dr. Mel White**, UFMCC Minister of Justice, who received the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award on Dec. 6 for his efforts to apply the 'soulforce' principles of Gandhi and King to the l/g/b/t struggle for justice. ■ An excellent article on MCC Communion by the **Rev. Jeff Pulling**, pastor of **MCC in the Valley** (North Hollywood, CA) appears in the Fall issue of "Open Hands" magazine. ■ **MCC Windsor** will celebrate their 10th Anniversary on the weekend of Jan. 10-11, 1998. The **Rev. Evan LeBlanc** and the congregation of MCC Windsor invite everyone to join in their historic celebration. ■ The **Progressive Religious Alliance**, based in Los Angeles, CA and which is chaired by **Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson**, received a \$4000 grant from the Liberty Hill Foundation for its work in support of Gay and Lesbian Rights, particularly the freedom to marry. ■ Congratulations to **Max Karnsgan**, Pastoral Leader of **MCC Perth**, Western Australia, and his spouse, **Colin**, who celebrated their 20th anniversary in November. ■ Congratulations to the newest commissioned churches in the **Eastern**

were several workshops devoted to faith organizing issues, including: Mobilizing LGBT People of Faith, That Old Time Religion, Organizing In and With Local Congregations, and Religion and Violence: A Look at Promise Keepers.

The conference put forth several challenges to the leaders in faith communities, particularly for the clergy and lay leadership of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. First, is the need to demonstrate that social justice can be and is a part of spirituality. It is time for our communities to become more interconnected with the LGBT equal rights movement. It is time for our voices to be heard and associated with justice for all of God's people. Second, is the need to reclaim our spirituality from institutions which have taken it from us and continue to use it to oppress us.

The Creating Change Conference is designed to teach the leadership of all communities how to positively impact change. Now, as faith communities begin to have a stronger voice within the LGBT community, UFMCC must step forward with strong leadership and vision in organizing on the grassroots level all the way to national and inter-

newsletters, and resources. So many memories...

I remember the disbelief and shock in my church when I became the first of the UFMCC clergy to become sick with AIDS in 1982. I remember the poor attendance and the denial at the first AIDS Education Day at General Conference in Sacramento, 1985. More than one pastor told me they didn't need to be there, "because we don't have anybody with AIDS in our congregation."

I remember the first AIDS Vigil of Prayer, organized by Rev. David Farrell and MCC San Diego. I remember joining together with Dean Sandmire, Rev. Eddie Helms, and Rev. Sherre Boothman to fight for the establishment of a UFMCC AIDS Ministry, and how the Elders established the program in the fall of 1987.

In one file are pictures of the Hollywood fundraisers where I spoke and met many celebrities. In another file, my interviews with Tammy Faye Bakker, Jane Pauley, CNN, LIFE, OMNI, and many, many local newspapers as I traveled to over 200 MCCs around the world.

Here are the documents relating to the founding of the U.S. AIDS National Interfaith Network, of which Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Rev. Emmett Watkins, and I were a part. And here is the Atlanta Declaration, a 1989 document for World AIDS Day, created at the Carter Center with nine UFMCC leaders participating.

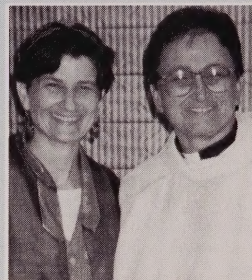
The first UFMCC workplace policy for persons with life-threatening illnesses was a direct result of the many people living with AIDS by 1989. Here are the first two UFMCC AIDS pamphlets, now out of date and out of print. All the other brochures, manuals and resources produced by UFMCC AIDS Ministry for the local church, will continue to be available through the UFMCC Resource Center.

As Troy Perry makes his two visits to the White House for meetings with the U.S. President this month, I am packing away pictures of my breakfast with the President on World AIDS Day, 1993. Troy tells me that I was the first MCCer to meet with a seated President.

Most of all, I remember the people... Rev. Nancy Radclyffe and so many others who ministered so effectively to me and so many others with AIDS; and so many who are now gone... the activists and lay leaders like Dean Sandmire, Sean Kinney, and Ralph Masek; the musicians like Chuck Vickers; the gentle and powerful pastors like Rev. Ron Bergeron, Rev. Larry Dunlap, Rev. Thomas Walker, Rev. Brad Anderson, and Rev. Robert Pierce, to name but a few. I remember most especially Rev. Ron Russell-Coons and Rev. Emmett Watkins, who were the first

The temple, started in the basement of a Christian church, which met in a former theater, next to a porn showcase, in downtown LA, marks 25th anniversary. Whew!

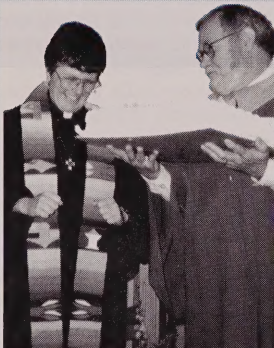
Twenty five years ago, members and friends of MCC Los Angeles, all of whom had Jewish backgrounds, met in the basement of MCCLA on Hill Street in Downtown Los Angeles, and formed



the first "out" Jewish temple in the world, Beth Chayim Chadashim. In November, the temple congregation "came home" to MCCLA in its new home in West Hollywood to celebrate the temple's 25th Anniversary. In doing so, Rabbi Lisa Edwards left, noted the contribution of MCC Los Angeles over the years, and thanked Rev. Elders Troy Perry and Nancy Wilson, right, for their support and help through its first quarter century.

Angels, and formed the first "out" Jewish temple in the world, Beth Chayim Chadashim. In November, the temple congregation "came home" to MCCLA in its new home in West Hollywood to celebrate the temple's 25th Anniversary. In doing so, Rabbi Lisa Edwards

DISTRICT CONFERENCES



What's Written on That Cake?

Whatever it says, it has amused Rev. Sheila Rawls, who was attending her last district conference in the role of Northeast District Coordinator. Clyde Proch presented the cake to her at Northeast District Conference, held in November.

national policy change. Next year's Creating Change Conference will be Nov. 11-15, 1998 in Pittsburgh, PA. All clergy and lay leadership are encouraged to give prayerful consideration to participate in this conference -- and to the outstanding opportunities it provides for leadership training and networking with other activists and organizations.

So Many Memories

The last couple of weeks, I have been sorting through 10 years of files, as I empty my office and leave my position as Director as UFMCC AIDS Ministry. Inevitably, the process has awakened many memories, both painful and joyful, as I dispose of or store AIDS reports, documents,

two after me to be diagnosed with AIDS.

I also have many memories of Rev. Larry Uhrig, particularly how he responded to the AIDS Forum at the General Conference in St. Paul in 1989. After the emotional speeches, and the emptying of chairs to remember those who had died from AIDS, Larry



Rev. Steve Pieters
Director HIV/AIDS Ministry

started back up the aisle, tearfully presenting the first in a flood of donations that helped fund the AIDS Ministry Field Director's salary. I remember some years later, as he became sick himself, what a powerful witness he was for many, many people to God's sustaining power.

Over forty of our pastors have died from HIV/AIDS, and an estimated 6,000 lay people. We've lost two elders to AIDS, and countless deacons, student clergy, lay leaders and pastors' spouses. In the last year, the death rate among us has dropped dramatically, but it hasn't disappeared.

For some people, living with HIV/AIDS has changed for the better. For them, it no longer seems to be an imminent death sentence. AIDS Ministry, I'm told, does not seem to be such an urgent need in many congregations. But AIDS issues continue. If nothing else, HIV prevention is still an immediate need, for example.

The past fifteen years of living with AIDS have changed us forever. We are now sensitized to the needs of the sick, the dying, and the bereaved in a way we never were before. We can now see from experience how well our faith works in facing all kinds of life-threatening challenges. The disproportionate incidence of breast cancer among lesbians is but one example of the on-going needs for health

Continued

and wellness ministries in UFMCC. We have so much to offer so many people, because AIDS has made us stronger in our faith and in our hope.

As I pack up the last files, I grieve deeply for those we've lost. And I grieve for my lost role with the Fellowship. My identity has become so wrapped up in AIDS, that I have all kinds of confusing and painful feelings about moving on. But there is also a certain relief from laying down the responsibilities of AIDS Ministry in the UFMCC. Thank God we have turned a corner in treatment. Thank God there are so many good sources of HIV/AIDS information now, and so many people who are prepared for the challenges of life with a catastrophic illness. Thank God that we have lived to see this day. Would that so many others had lived too.

May the people of this denomination continue to be living and loving memorials to all those who have died. May we never forget what has happened to us since 1981. May we move into the future with hope, trusting in God's love through it all.

Districts Host Conferences

District Conference gatherings were recently held by a number of districts in the

Fellowship. Most districts are reporting both larger-than-ever attendance at conferences, plus hugely successful programming and guest speakers.

Mid-Atlantic District

More than 200 persons attended the recent Mid-Atlantic District Conference, which continued the theme: LEADERSHIP 2000: Mobilizing For Ministry

Speakers included the Rev. Arlene Ackerman (District Coordinator), the Rev. Ken Ehrke (Open Door MCC) and the Rev. Elder Don Eastman. The conference was blessed by the MCC Washington Gospel Choir and the MCC Richmond choir along with musical groups from all over the District, including a surprise visit from Marsha Stevens. Our music coordinator Laura Dalton also organized a complete music track of workshops and conference choir to empower our districts music ministers.

The district affirmed it's commitment to plant multiple cell churches, that is, churches starting with a core group of at least 35

persons and with a first service of 70 or more local people. The district is currently conducting feasibility studies for three new churches and has approved a new parish extension north of Washington, DC.

The youth program was attended by over 15 children. Rev. Jeffrey Jordan led a program of crafts, bible stories, music and swimming.

Delegates voted to send a letter of support to the German Town Mennonite Church for their support of gays and lesbians. Their District just disfellowshipped them and removed the credentials of their pastor for taking a pro-gay stance.

Our next District Conference will feature Lyle Schaller, church growth consultant and author. Everyone is invited to attend. It will be April 24-25, 1998 in Hampton, VA. The theme will be LEADERSHIP 2000: Pioneering for the 21st Century.

Southwest District

A Glorious Witness was the theme of this year's District Conference of the Southwest District of the UFMCC. The Conference was held Nov. 7-9 in West Hollywood, CA, at MCC Los Angeles, also known as UFMCC's "Mother Church".

Conference began on Friday with an all-day mini-conference entitled "Front Door, Back Door, Side Door." This workshop explored ways people find and choose a church, when people stay, and why they leave. It was presented by the Strategic Growth Initiative of UFMCC, and facilitated by the Rev. Elder Don Eastman and James Birkitt, UFMCC



■ **Rev. Don Pederson**, above, was presented with a stole emblazoned with the logo of each church in the Southwest District at the recent conference. At the recent GLAD district gathering, right, **Rev. Patricia Voelker**, **Rev. Elder Troy Perry**, **GLAD District Coordinator Rev. Jay Neely**, and **Rev. Mel Bailey**.

Canadian District. At its most recent District Conference, they commissioned **Rainbow MCC** of Guelph, Ontario, the **Rev. Sid Bater**, pastor; and **Simcoe County MCC**, of Barrie Ontario, the **Rev. Marcia Perryman**, pastor. ■ **Holy Covenant MCC** (Hinsdale, IL) held a World AIDS Day Memorial and Celebration of Life service on Dec. 1, 1997, portions of which were carried by WLS-TV (ABC). ■ Congratulations to **Christos MCC** and the **Rev. Susan Mabey** on their move to Trinity St. Paul's United Church in Toronto. The first service was a joint service of the two congregations and featured a moving welcoming ceremony. Blessings on an exciting new stage in your ministry. ■ Congratulations to **Angels of Hope MCC** (Green Bay, WI), which dedicated their new worship facility on Nov. 16 with worship and music.

PRAYERS

Safe Harbour MCC in Canada mourns the passing of one of their most cherished members - **Margaret Byers** was eighty five at the time of her death and had been a member of Safe Harbour from its earliest days. She is missed by the community and most profoundly by her son **Robert Byers**, also a long time member and creator of many of **Eastern Canada's** web-sites. Margaret will be missed by all. Please keep Robert, his sisters and the congregation in your prayers. ■ Continued prayers for **Ravi Verma's** father, who is in ill health.

Classified

Learn more about the Palms of Manasota, the world's first retirement village for gays and lesbians! Conveniently located between Sarasota and Tampa Bay in Florida. For free information write to William J. Laing, Project Coordinator, Palms of Manasota, 220 49th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221, or call (941) 722-5858. Churches, you may wish to write for information for your members.

Loving church in Detroit area seeks part-time pastor to promote growth, outreach and spiritual development. Contact Divind Peace MCC at P. O. Box 71938, Madison Hts., MI 48071 or call (248) 544-8335.

Continued

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☐ **NO LONGER AVAILABLE:**

THE NEW TESTAMENT & PSALMS: An Inclusive Version, Oxford University Press BP0094 page 17

WHEN SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT IS GAY GC0010 page 10 current catalog

Director of Communications. Saturday was the Business Meeting of the District. The Rev. Don Pederson was re-elected as the District Coordinator and Ms. Jude Litzenberger was re-elected as the Assistant District Coordinator. The budget for the next year was passed by a unanimous vote on the first reading. A plenary session was held on Latino ministry. Next year's Southwest District Conference will be held on Nov. 22 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Gulf Lower Atlantic District

The largest District Conference in the history of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District took place in Atlanta, Nov. 14-16. Featured speakers included UFMCC founder & Moderator Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Rev. Delores Berry and the Rev. Carolyn Mobley, Associate Pastor of MCC of the Resurrection in Houston. "Joy in the Name" was the conference theme. Friday and Saturday night worship services were attended by over 500 attendees. The Gulf Lower Atlantic District now has 38 worshipping bodies, and welcomed the three newest MCC's: MCC Valdosta, GA, MCC Florence SC and MCC Durham, NC.

By acclamation, delegates reelected the Rev. Jay Neely to a third term as District Coordinator.

Awards were presented to Keith Mason, for service as Assistant District Coordinator, the Rev. Christine Oscar for work as the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Revs. Wayne Lindsey and Bob Darst, for work on the BOM, to St. John's MCC Raleigh for the most registered attendees at conference, MCC Augusta for the largest number registered per capita at the conference, and to MCC Asheville for the most women registered at conference.

European District

"Fit, Funded And Free" was the theme of European District Conference, held Nov. 14-16, 1997 in the northern English resort of Blackpool. Delegates from across Europe, including visitors from a new feasibility group in Marseilles, France, celebrated 25 years of MCC in Europe. Many people shared testimonies of how God has worked in their lives through the ministry of UFMCC.

There were many farewells at this conference as most of the District Committee did not stand for reelection. Special thanks to Catherine Chemarin who has served as Interim District Coordinator. She

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has guided the District skillfully through an uncertain time and her touch has been much appreciated.

The European District marked up another "first" in their 25-year history by electing two women, both laypersons, as District and Assistant District Coordinators. Cecilia Eggleston has been Chair of Samaritan College in Europe and was the first lay person to sit on the District's Board of Ordained Ministry. Cecilia's e-mail address is

c.m.e@btinternet.com. Laurance Vergez brings a richness of cultural diversity to her role as Assistant District Coordinator. She is French born and lives in Denmark, where she is active in MCC Copenhagen.

Reconciliation in Manila (or "Angels in the Outreach")

Sometimes in our ministry, struggles and conflicts persist and the wonder and grace of God's presence seem to evade us.

And then, almost out of nowhere, sometimes just in the nick of time, we have the fresh taste of forgiveness and healing which brings home God's promise: "I will be with you always."



Rev. Judy Dahl,
Global Outreach

On Sunday, Sept. 14, Edgar Mendoza was reinstated as the Pastoral Leader of MCC Manila. Like many of our churches, MCC Manila had experienced brokenness. In a message to the congregation, Edgar says:

"It is joyful and a wonderful feeling to be with you again. When Rev. Ed Paul told me the good news that some of you wanted me to come back as your lay pastor, it came not as a surprise to me but rather as a tremendous joy which overwhelmed my heart. There

Rev. Perry's Trip to South Africa

In the next issue of *Keeping In Touch*, don't miss complete details and pictures of Rev. Elder Troy Perry's recent trip to South Africa,



his visits to new UFMCC churches there, and his historic meeting with Rev. Desmond Tutu.

were tears of joy for it was a confirmation that God's love never left anyone of us. God has always been with us, guiding us to this very moment. You and I, God is binding us together in forgiving love; all these days, even the times when we are apart. God through the Holy Spirit must have been working on our reunion.

"Sa aking mga kapatid sa pananampalataya sa MCC Manila, sa kaibuturan ng aking puso, na kung

sa'ay naron ang Panginoong Hesukristo". (Spoken in Tagalog, the language of our sisters and brothers in Manila.) "To all my brothers and sisters in faith, from the depths of my heart, where God dwells, with a joyful heart I accept the role of Pastor.

"And to Rev. Ed Paul, what can I say, you are an angel sent from the UFMCC, a miracle worker? Thank you for your patience and for leading us to spiritual renewal at MCC Manila. I sense this is a miracle unfolding right before our hearts. What we are experiencing this very moment is a gracious miracle of the Holy Spirit. I can sense the ongoing love, forgiveness, joy peace patience, goodness and self-control. If this were not evident among us we wouldn't be here together tonight. This must be a miracle!"

May God remind you this Christmas season of the miracles that God's angels can bring to your life, your home or your church. Thank you for reminding us, Rev. Ed Paul, Edgar Mendoza and MCC Manila. May your story bring the hope for miracles in every MCC this Christmas. Look for angels in the outreach!

AIDS Ministry Responds to Changing Needs

With the departure of the Rev. Steve Pieters as Director of AIDS Ministry, UFMCC is preparing to implement new ways of responding to the continuing AIDS crisis. UFMCC leaders are exploring options to transition to new programming networks to facilitate

AIDS ministry, including the use of paid consultants.

The Elders' AIDS Ministry Plan for 1998 calls for repackaging and marketing UFMCC resources on AIDS and spirituality, increased networking with existing resources outside of UFMCC, preparation of new UFMCC policy statements on relevant issues, and development of strategies to address emerging issues in the AIDS crisis.

During this interim period, Frank Zerilli, confidential assistant to Troy Perry, is serving as the Fellowship's AIDS Liaison. He may be reached by e-mail at AidsMinistry@ufmcchq.com.

Would you like to be a part of an increasing outreach to a major community? Would you like to pastor a church with successful ministries of deacons, music, and prayer partners? Would you like to live and work in a loving metropolitan city? Would you like to pastor a congregation of 100+ and growing? Then you are the pastor for us!!! MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO, is in the process of looking for a senior pastor. If interested, please send updated resume, statement of faith and recent video taped sermon to: Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 38069, St. Louis, MO 63138.

Grace Fellowship MCC in Hendersonville, NC is seeking a clergy person for half-time position. GF MCC is a new work located in a city of 30 thousand people 30 minutes SE of Asheville, NC in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The congregation is growing and currently has 30-40 members/friends. Interested clergy please call (704) 696-9767 or e-mail susan@a-o.com, or write Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Grace Fellowship MCC, P.O. Box 812, Hendersonville, NC 28733, for more information.

Are you an outgoing person who can share our vision, including church growth, a new worship space, and increased outreach in the community? Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, a small Chartered church, seeks a full-time pastor. If you are interested in leading a congregation with 23 years of commitment to Christ in central Iowa, send your resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 8426, Des Moines, Iowa 50301.

Enjoy a serene "mountain high" in Fort Collins, Colorado, a university city nestled at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains. MCC Family in Christ is seeking a dynamic, people-centered, spirit-filled Pastor with strong pastoral care and spiritual development skills. We're a small, energetic congregation with incredible potential for growth. Long-term commitment desired; start part-time, but progress to full time as you help us grow. UFMCC credentialing preferred. If a future near the mountains interests you, send letter of inquiry by February 7, 1998 to Pastoral Search, MCC Family in Christ, 805 S. Shields Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmcc@ufmcc.org Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

Editor
James N. Birkitt Jr.,
Director of Communications

Editorial Board
Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Ravi Verma, Chief Operating Officer

Team Members
Nancy Fackrell, Rev. Steve Pieters

Newly-elected board of directors of MCC Manila, from left, Arlene, Efen, Edgar, Andy, and Malu.





Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

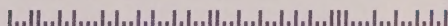
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TOP 20 TITHES - OCTOBER 1997

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas	\$3,634.51
2. MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$3,223.92
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, Florida	\$2,372.77
4. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, California	\$1,865.83
5. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, California	\$1,849.81
6. MCC San Diego, San Diego, California	\$1,779.56
7. Vision of Hope MCC, Lancaster, Pennsylvania	\$1,494.41
8. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado	\$1,488.24
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia	\$1,407.96
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$1,307.46
11. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, Florida	\$1,237.85
12. MCC Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky	\$1,225.93
13. MCC New York, New York City, New York	\$1,188.60
14. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, N. Carolina	\$1,166.40
15. River City MCC, Sacramento, California	\$1,091.79
16. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$1,018.20
17. MCC Richmond, Richmond, Virginia	\$ 952.46
18. Agape' MCC, Fort Worth, Texas	\$ 874.16
19. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, Kansas	\$ 793.82
20. MCC Seattle, Seattle, Washington	\$ 789.94

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - OCTOBER 1997

1. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$40.35
2. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, California	\$40.27
3. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, California	\$37.01
4. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, Missouri	\$35.23
5. Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage, Alaska	\$34.31
6. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, Kansas	\$32.74
7. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, Illinois	\$32.62
8. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, New York	\$31.28
9. MCC Glendale, Glendale, California	\$30.81
10. MCC of Living Faith, St. Louis, Missouri	\$29.08
11. MCC of the Pomona Valley, Claremont, California	\$28.49
12. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, Tennessee	\$28.00
13. Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, Arkansas	\$26.67
14. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, Georgia	\$26.36
15. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$25.97
16. First Coast MCC, St. Augustine, Florida	\$25.89
17. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, California	\$25.51
18. MCC San Jose, San Jose, California	\$24.97
19. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, Illinois	\$24.26
20. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, Illinois	\$22.90

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

**November
1997**

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

Rev. Jorge Sosa is New UFMCC Elder

The Rev. Jorge Sosa, senior pastor of ICM Reconciliation in Mexico City and Area Coordinator for Mexico and Central America, was installed as UFMCC's newest Elder during services at UFMCC's "Mother Church," MCC Los Angeles, on Sunday, October 19. Members of the Board of Elders, District Coordinators, and members of UFMCC's Latin ministry participated. The Rev. Sosa became the 22nd Elder in UFMCC's history and the fourth



non-US elder. Pleaser remember him with your love and prayers as he begins his new duties on behalf of our growing international Fellowship.

Annual Schuller Institute, SGI Meeting Announced

The Robert H. Schuller Institute For Successful Church Leadership is popular with clergy and lay people of Metropolitan Community Churches. Last year more than 80 MCC leaders attended this institute. This year's theme is "Communicating the Christian Gospel To Build Strong Churches." The institute is scheduled for January 26-29, 1998 at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California — a 45 minute drive from the UFMCC World Center.

The Strategic Growth Initiative Team will conduct a two-hour orientation to the Schuller Institute for MCC registrants prior to the conference. Immediately following the institute, on January 30, the SGI Team will offer a full-day program enabling MCC leaders to discuss experiences of the institute.

Registration fees for the Schuller Institute are \$65 (US) for individuals, and \$35 per person for groups of four or more registering at the same time. Major credit cards may be used. To register, call the Crystal Cathedral at (714) 544-5679; for information, call (714) 971-4343. To register for the MCC meetings at this institute, contact the UFMCC's conference coordinator,

Nathan Meckley, (310) 360 8640, or via email at nmeckley@ufmcchq.com. There is no registration charge for the SGI meetings.

UFMCC General Council Holds Productive, Whirlwind Session

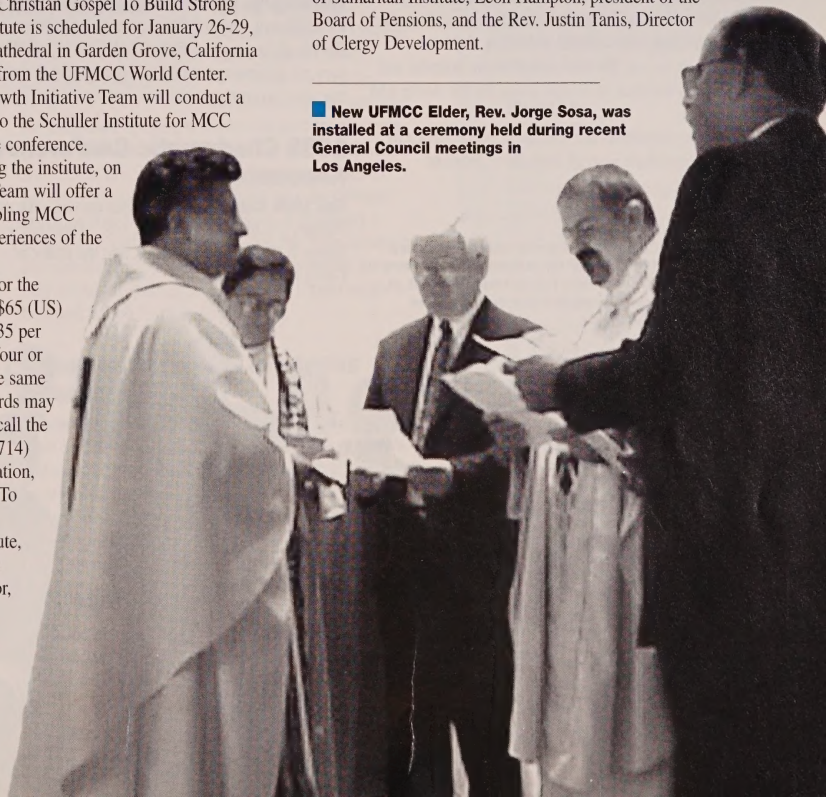
The UFMCC General Council — composed of the Board of Elders and District Coordinators — held a whirlwind week of meetings October 14-20 at the UFMCC World Center in West Hollywood, CA.

Among the many items of business, Council confirmed the appointment of the Rev. Jorge Sosa of Mexico City to become the 22nd Elder in the 29 year history of UFMCC, approved the 1998 UFMCC budget and new BOM proposals, and adopted the denominational Core Values. The Council publicly recognized the Rev. Sheila Rawls, who is completing her term as Northeast District Coordinator; the Rev. Steve Pieters, who attended his final General Council meetings as a member of UFMCC staff; Nathan Meckley, who is observing his 10th anniversary on Fellowship staff; and the Rev. Marcie Wexler, who completed her term on General Council.

Council welcomed the Rev. Diane Fisher, who attended her first Council as Eastern Canadian District Coordinator, and Clarke Friesen, who attended his first Council in his new role as Elder. Gil Gerald and Yvonne Thompson led an outstanding workshop on institutional racism.

Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration, was appointed Chief Operating Officer for the denomination. Reports were presented by the Rev. Sandra Robinson, president of Samaritan Institute, Leon Hampton, president of the Board of Pensions, and the Rev. Justin Tanis, Director of Clergy Development.

■ New UFMCC Elder, Rev. Jorge Sosa, was installed at a ceremony held during recent General Council meetings in Los Angeles.



South African MCCers Lose Two Key Leaders

The Rev. Tsetsei Tandekiso, the founding Pastor of Hope and Unity Metropolitan Community Church in Johannesburg, has died of meningitis. Rev.



Rev. Judy Dahl,
Global Outreach

Tandekiso was the foremost pioneer in securing liberation for black gay men and lesbian Christians in South Africa. His church in

Johannesburg has been a spiritual outpost of hope for many of our sisters and brothers in South Africa.

During an official UFMCC visit in February 1996, the Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Ravi Verma and the Rev. Judy Dahl visited Hope and Unity for one of the most sacred moments of the trip. The spirit and passion of God were literally tangible during this service and the enthusiasm and powerful leadership of Rev. Tandekiso were no small part of that overall impression.

During that trip we spent a full day touring the Township of Soweto with Rev. Tandekiso and were blessed immeasurably by his compassion and brilliance. While Hope and Unity MCC has not made official application to affiliate with the UFMCC, (even though they choose to use our name), their spirit and ours are joined in common ministry and we will greatly miss Rev. Tandekiso. Rest in peace, dear brother.

Charel Duplesis, the music coordinator for Deo Gloria Family Church MCC in Pretoria South Africa, died this past month of an heart attack. Charel was found in critical condition a week earlier with multiple stab wounds and left in the boot (trunk) of his car. He was rushed to the hospital and stabilized but then later took a turn for the worse and died.

Please remember our friends in South Africa as they deal with the loss of these two Christian leaders.

■ **The UFMCC General Council convened in Los Angeles during October for meetings which were attended by several new faces, including that of Rev. Jorge Sosa, appointed and confirmed as Elder by the Council.**

Leadership Conference to Introduce "Benchmarks of Excellence"

The 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference will introduce "Benchmarks of Excellence" for local churches, a vital ministry priority adopted recently by General Conference Eighteen. Once again, this growing biennial conference returns to the

Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, one of North America's most beautiful conference resorts. The Leadership Conference is scheduled for August 13-16, 1998.



British MCCers Rejoice at New Government Policy

In October, the British Immigration Department began accepting applications from non-British residents to seek British 'stay' based on their same sex relationship. The new policy applies to gay and lesbian relationships of four or more years, and requires the non-British partner to be "self-funding." Following this green light, the partnership must last an additional year for the partner to be accorded full British citizen rights. British MCCers rejoice that they are achieving social and legal progress under the new government.

1998 Charismatic Conference Announced

The 1998 Charismatic Conference will take place January 23-25 in Long Beach, CA. This year's theme is "Lift up your heads...that the Ruler of Glory may come in."

Guest speakers include Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry; Rev. Elder Donald Eastman; Rev. Elder Freda Smith, River City MCC Cathedral of Promise; Rev. Pat Bumgardner, MCC New York; Rev. Bradley Wishon, Gentle Shepherd MCC; Rev. Janet Parker, Maranatha Fellowship MCC; Rev. Lee Thompson, Abundant Grace Fellowship; Rev. Joan Wakeford, Joan Wakeford Ministries; Rev. Sandra Turnbull, MCC Long Beach and Chadash Ministries.

For information or registration forms, contact: MCC Long Beach, 3840 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807, or phone (562) 426-0222. E-mail inquiries may be sent to MCCLB@aol.com

New Surge of HIV Illness?

I've been bluntly reminded in recent weeks that prevention is not the only issue pressing on us as HIV/AIDS continues to affect UFMCC.



Rev. Steve Pieters
Director HIV/AIDS Ministry

HIV/AIDS

I spent much of last week sitting with a friend who was dying from the complications of AIDS. He had HIV- lymphoma, and

fought hard for years, with aggressive chemotherapies and radiation treatments. He was fully engaged in life, within the physical limits of his battling body.

Now, once again, I stood with other friends by his bed as his breathing became shallow and slow. Just before he died, his eyes opened wide, and he stared at something beyond us. As we told him how much we loved him, his eyes remained open while his heart beat and his breathing came to an end. The hospital staff joined us in crying as we closed his eyes and said goodbye.

I was saddened at how familiar I was with the scene, even though it has been over a year since I've attended someone's dying. I had been lulled into this feeling that I was somehow done with ministering to someone as they died. But here we were again.



The reality is that my friend is but one of many people still being killed by the effects of HIV. Another friend with HIV committed suicide last month. He'd only been diagnosed with HIV for 11 months, but he wrote that he couldn't face any more toxic treatments. And a beloved member of the MCC Los Angeles staff succumbed to the complications of AIDS this month. Yet another friend of mine from the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles has been told by his doctor that after trying every combination treatment, nothing is working anymore. The HIV he carries is currently untreatable. He's been taken off all HIV treatments, until they come up with a new generation of treatments, which will hopefully be soon.

This is grim news, and I'm hearing it from more and more people around the Fellowship and in HIV/AIDS service agencies. Could we be experiencing the beginning of a resurgence of sickness and dying from HIV? Or is it just becoming apparent that it never really stopped? UFMCC AIDS Ministry has always emphasized hope, even in the face of dying. With our faith, this is one of the best gifts we can bring to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

At their October meeting, the General Council struggled with the question of what to do with UFMCC AIDS Ministry in the New Year. With the reorganization of how we do programming as a denomination, and my departure as Director of AIDS Ministry, what is the best way that UFMCC can continue to bring our unique gifts to the HIV/AIDS ministry movement?

I pray that UFMCC AIDS Ministry will continue to bring hope where there seems to be hopelessness. I pray that we will continue to be leaders in pastoral care and the justice issues of HIV among the interfaith movement. I continue to believe that our faith provides us with every spiritual tool we need to face HIV, AIDS, or any other life-threatening condition.

AIDS is a ministry priority for UFMCC; an opportunity to make a unique contribution to God's work in the world.

The Gay Crusade: This is Our Story!

Rev. Jim Mitulski, Pastor MCC San Francisco

When Evangelist Billy Graham brought his crusade to San Francisco in October, it was a different city than the one he had first visited forty years ago. This time, when Graham articulated his standard position about the sinfulness of homosexuality, lesbian and gay Christians decided to take a stand and tell our story.

We prayed about what we could do that wasn't a

reaction to these negative voices, and we came up with the idea of a series of revivals that would take place preceding the Graham Crusade. "This is OUR Story" became the theme of our prayerful response.

For four nights members from Lutheran, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Pentecostal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Unitarian and metaphysical churches crowded the MCC-SF sanctuary to tell the story of God's unconditional love for all people. Many MCC members gave their testimony, including one woman who had sung in a Billy Graham Crusade Choir in Indiana before she came out; for her this was a chance to tell her story, the whole story.

Many straight allies from mainline churches came to express solidarity, including the Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of Northern California's oldest and largest African American church, the Third Church. Brown is also a member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. Other straight allies who spoke included Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow from Covenant Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Glenda Hope, a Presbyterian Minister working in the Tenderloin district, the center of the city's poverty; and the Rev. Doug Donnally, pastor of Dolores Street Baptist Church.

Unexpected results occurred. Graham amended

his traditional opening remarks to explicitly welcome gays in attendance, and affirmed the gay friends who were in his life. The Gay Crusade as it was dubbed locally received far more publicity than the Graham crusade. And like any good revival, it produced a revival of commitment at MCC-SF, the fruits of which are seen this month as the congregation begins the only homeless feeding program in the Castro neighborhood, called "Simply Supper".

Creative Outreach Produces Results

The members of Jesus MCC in Indianapolis, Indiana have embraced new technology to share the gospel — and are seeing tangible results! Already this year they have built a Justice Website, added a Virtual Church website that offers weekly sermons in RealAudio, started a moderated on-line chat forum, and established an e-mail news list. Another benefit: Attendance at weekly worship services has almost tripled this year — growing from the 40's to around 120. One member noted, "As quickly as God gives us a vision, we make it happen. We've been amazed at how close we've grown to God."



■ Rev. Andre Muller, Area Coordinator for South Africa, with Rev. Judy Dahl, Director of Global Outreach and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. Muller represented Global Outreach during the October General Council session.

The Rev. Andy Braunston has been appointed pastor of MCC Manchester, UK. ■ MCC Corpus Christi, TX, is proud to announce the birth of Pastor Sandy O'Steen's baby, Ryan Patrick O'Steen born on September 21, 1997, weighing 7 lb. 10 oz. ■ The Rev. Elder Hong Tan has accepted a call to pastor MCC North London, UK. Elder Troy Perry will participate in the Service of Installation in December. ■ All Saints MCC of Atlanta, GA is proud to announce its new web site. They can be reached at the following address: <http://www.mindspring.com/~all-saintsmcc/>. ■ MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA, knocked people's socks off at Coffeehouse '97. Entitled "Rainbow Follies, or Something for Everyone," the event was filled with fun and music, highlighting songs and ensembles from the local community. ■ St. Mary's MCC, Greensboro, NC, moved into their new worship center in October. Congratulations! ■ MCC Austin, TX, entered into a 60-day feasibility study to buy 10 acres of land. Pray that they can soon start building their new church home. ■ Vieux Carre' MCC sponsored a 24-hour ecumenical vigil of prayer Nov. 1-2. This year's prayer theme was "A House of Prayer for ALL People."

PRAYERS

Sad news from Melbourne, Australia: Michael Galz, a member of MCC Melbourne, and a page at General Conference in Sydney, has died. Diagnosed HIV positive recently, he took his own life rather than continue on treatments which were making him sicker. Our prayers go out to his partner David, and all his friends and family. ■ The mother of the Rev. Donna Bruner, Louisville, KY, died on Oct 7th. Please keep Donna and her spouse, Nancy, in your prayers. Cards and notes may be sent to her at 10630 Cemetery Road, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

■ November 7-9 Southwest District Conference "A Glorious Witness" held at MCC Los Angeles, West Hollywood, California. Special feature, the inclusion of a mini-conference entitled "Front Door, Side Door, Back Door" will be held on November 7.

Responding to the Other People of Faith in Our Communities

All too often our lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered neighbors are turned off by people of faith and by the typical worship services we offer. Although they, too, are often people of faith or come from faith backgrounds, they have been victimized by bad



JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

theology and now turn their backs on religion.

Because liturgy is an acquired taste, has your local congregation considered the

creation of a small group, entry-level alternative developed around the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous where g/l/b/t seekers could restart their spiritual journeys in a more intimate, personal setting, perhaps on a weekday evening in a private home or cafe?

There are a growing number of alternative spirituality groups: Radical Faeries, Women's Festivals, Buddhist & Hindu circles, TantraMan, Loving Brotherhood, Body Electric, Shaman's Circle, The Experience, EST, etc. Would someone in your congregation be willing to reach out to create a dialogue with these thoughtful, deeply spiritual seekers, a dialogue that would do both sides good?

There is the Ecumenical Welcoming Movement that includes Reconciling Congregations (UMC), Open and Affirming (UCC), Reconciled in Christ (LC), More Light Churches (PCUSA), Welcoming and Affirming Churches (ABC/USA). How can your congregation more actively support these courageous welcoming churches and their pastors who are taking a sacrificial stand on behalf of God's lesbian and gay children?

There are the g/l/b/t solidarity groups within every denomination: Integrity (Episcopalians), Dignity (Catholics), Affirmation (Mormons), Honesty (Baptists). How can your congregation minister to our g/l/b/t sisters and brothers who feel called to remain active in the transformation of their own denominations?

There are the courageous and committed individual congregations who are standing alone within their denominations: Pullen Memorial Southern Baptist, Spring Lake RCA, etc. Is there a local congregation in your area that has broken with its anti-gay denominational policies to take a stand for God's lesbian and gay children? How has your church said thanks for their courageous stand? How could you help that church in its new, open ministry with lesbians and gays?

There are local clergy organizations that are creating (or could be persuaded to create) local Affirmations for full acceptance of lesbian and gay Christians (i.e. The Madison Affirmation). Does your pastor meet with the local clergy organization? If the door is closed to lesbian and gay churches, should your pastor begin a local meeting of gay/lesbian friendly clergy?

As your Minister of Justice and Reconciliation, I am excited to hear from you about your local experiments in reconciliation! You can contact me by e-mail at RevMel@aol.com or by fax at (714) 494 4079.

Dr. Mona West Departs Samaritan, Accepts New Position in Texas

The Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies has announced the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Mona



West, who is departing Samaritan for another position within UFMCC. Dr. West has served as Academic Dean

of Samaritan since 1993. Her accomplishments at Samaritan include co-facilitating the establishment of dual enrollment programs between Samaritan and the Chicago Theological Seminary and Pacific School of Religion.

The Samaritan Institute has grown in stature and expanded its curriculum offerings under Dean West's guidance. Our prayers and best wishes to Dr. West as she begins her new ministry as Director of Spiritual Development at the Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX.

Book Review: Our Families, Our Values

Rev. Elder Dr. Charlie Arehart

"Our Families, Our Values: Snapshots of Queer Kinship" by the Rev. Dr. Robert Goss and Amy Adams Squire Strongheart, editors, is a brilliant compilation of essays. The perspectives of the different writers are as varied as the rainbow of opinion which comprises the translesbigay communities.

As the United States officially says that marriage is reserved for heterosexuals and as some countries in Europe continue to create official status for queer relationships, this new book provides excellent material for discussion. During this past decade I've watched with concern as some in UFMCC moved to the right on issues of sexual conduct. I fear that we are either trying to fit into the celibacy/monogamy model voiced by our friends in increasingly affirming mainline denominations, are just getting older, or may unconsciously be moving with the pendulum as it swings conservatively.

■ The vision of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is to embody the presence of the Divine in the world, as revealed through Jesus Christ; to challenge the conscience of the universal Christian Church; and to celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of each person.

■ As we move toward this vision, by 2003, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches will be comprised of at least 70,000 members and adherents who are all called and equipped to minister with excellence.

■ This diverse global body will be widely recognized as a prophetic light and driving force for an inclusive Christian spirituality which celebrates the integration of spirituality and human sexuality.

■ Through our strengthened local churches, we will meet the justice and faith needs of people in increasing numbers of countries and cultures.

Vision Statement adopted at General Conference XVIII, Sydney, Australia



This new book puts the whole issue of queer relationships and sexual ethics on the table for thorough discussion. It provides excellent material for reflection as pastors and lay leaders reconsider our beliefs. How refreshing to be a part of a pluralistic Church which officially gives us permission to think, debate and disagree. This book can be easily utilized at the grass roots level to assist folks as they wrestle with their own sexualities. Herein is great small group discussion stuff, ready to use.

Dr. Goss' essay is incredible as he shares the church's historical journey and concludes with his very moving personal story of the loss of his partner, Frank, and how his new partner, David was integral in his healing. The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, the Rev. Dr. Mona West, the Rev. Brad Wishon, Ms.

Below left, Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Rev. Sheila Rawls and UFMCC staff member Yvonne Thompson participated in an Institutional Racism Forum during General Council. Below, Rev. Diane Fisher, new coordinator for the Eastern Canada District.



Victoria Kolakowski, and Dr. Tom Hanks offer new and refreshing perspectives on many well discussed points. The book is also worth reading for the new arguments which can be used to debate the fundamentalists. The essays on the Jewish and Buddhist perspectives will also challenge our theology. Contributors Michael Keely and Joseph Kramer share ideas which help readers continue to develop a theology of sexuality/spirituality. (The late Rev. Larry Uhrig is

smiling.) The intimate essay by the Rev. Jane Spahr recording her journey of pain as she reconciled to the dissolution of her partnership with the Rev. Coni Staff caused me to cry as I experienced her heartache.

This book is timely for us. If we as a denomination can continue to discuss these issues while avoiding the temptation to create a tome of canon law, than the Rev. Elder John Hose and the Rev. Elder Jim Sandmire will refrain from turning over in their graves.

To order, contact the UFMCC Resource Center at (310) 360-8640.

UFMCC Celebrates Family Values, Children's Ministries

UFMCC Celebrates Family values! And that includes providing worship and learning experiences for children. For example, the Rev. Irene Travis,

Director of Family Ministries at the Cathedral of Hope, MCC in Dallas reports, "Our Children's Center Program is growing by leaps and bounds! More than 100 children are registered for the Center programs, and a record attendance of 57 was achieved on November 2nd. We have an active puppet ministry and have just begun a children's choir with 22 young people participating. The new children's choir hopes makes its debut during November 16th. Please pray for us as we go forward with this exciting ministry."

Are You Moving?

Considering a move to another city? Here are some resources that can help.

Want to check out how to get from here to there, need directions or want to get the lay of the land? Contact your local automobile association for maps or go to this great website: www.mapquest.com.



Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

Mapquest will give you door-to-door directions to your new location wherever it is. Some of the information is sketchy in parts, particularly outside of the US, Canada and the UK. But it still includes a lot of information from all over the world.

For tips on how to move things, call local moving companies or truck rental agencies. Often they will have moving tips. Or look up some of these web sites: www.atlasvanlines.com (they have ideas for moving pets, computers, aquariums, holding moving sales and more) or www.gil.com.au/comm/amb/movelist.html (for a helpful check list).

Don't forget to check with the post office for moving information and to provide for mail forwarding. In the US, you can look up your new zip code on the Web at www.usps.gov/nsc. They also have moving information in both English and Spanish at www.usps.gov/moversnet. Also remember to send your change of address to the UFMCC so you'll keep receiving this newsletter and other important information.

You'll want to check with your department of revenue about what moving expenses may be tax deductible. In Canada, you can look up Revenue Canada information at <http://www.canlink.com/continental/taxdeduc.htm>. In the United States, contact the Internal Revenue Service at http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/forms_pubs or at 1-800-TAX FORM (1-800-829-3676). Ask for Publication 521: Moving Expenses. For a sheet to record your moving expenses, wherever you are, look at www.atlasvanlines.com.

For estimates on removal/moving expenses, check out EuropeExpress at www.cargoforwarding.co.uk if you are in Europe (there are also lots of movers listed at www.europages.com/cgi-bin/epg0.pl); in Australia, try www.ctel.com.au/clients/dlthomas; in the United States and Canada, look up www.homefair.com. They also have calculators to estimate how much you will need to make in your new location to match your standard of living in your current city, insurance information and change of address cards; there is

A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

November 7-9 **Northeast District Conference** "And All We're Fed, Ministry of Hospitality" (Daniel 4:12), held in Hartford, Connecticut.

November 10 **White House Conference on Hate Crimes**, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, participating.

November 14-16 **European District Conference** to be held in Blackpool. Conference will focus on fellowship, workshops and worship.

November 14-16 **Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference** "Joy In The Name" held in Atlanta, Georgia and sponsored by all three Atlanta MCC's (All Saints, Christ Covenant and First). Three exciting and inspirational guests for the weekend: Rev. Delores Berry, Rev. Carolyn Mobley, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

November 14-16 **Mid-Atlantic District Conference** "Leadership 2000: Mobilizing For Ministry" held in Laurel, Maryland. Special guest and keynote speaker will be Rev. Elder Don Eastman.

November 28-30 **Excel in Faithfulness Abunochovum Weekend** held in Dickinson, Texas.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmccq@aol.com Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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for the work of the ministry in the 21st Century"**

access in both English and Spanish on many parts of this site).

Many cities and states or provinces have websites now to help you learn about their area. You can also contact the local Chamber of Commerce or government for information.

Let us know where you are headed and we'll pray for you on your trip. God bless!

EXCEL has New Website

Keith Apple reports that EXCEL International has an exciting new website where you can learn more about this vital ministry, including current teams, upcoming weekends, reports on recent weekends, etc. Stop by for a visit and discover how EXCEL ministries can touch your life. The site on the World Wide Web is at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/9141>.

Visit the UFMCC Chat Room!

Mark Hahn, UFMCC On-Line Chat Host

"Welcome to the UFMCC GLBT Christian Chat!" is your host's greeting when you enter the weekly UFMCC on-line Internet chat room. Responses vary from: "Thank God I found you!" to "How can be it be okay to be gay and Christian?"

Every Friday night (8-10 PM EST; 5-7 PM PST) people from around the world gather in the UFMCC Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Christian chat room in the PlanetOut area of America Online. We welcome everyone! The only technical requirement, at present, is that you must be an America Online subscriber.

The UFMCC Chat Room offers two hours a week of fellowship and sharing. This is a time of sharing joys and concerns as well as discussing questions. You'll find regulars who join us every week and help make the room a very special place (such as these on-line names: AmaSpirit, OutLesbian, KurtJacob and many others), as well those who seeking and exploring.

There are those who have many questions, and others who sit quietly in their cyber-pews, watching the conversation, just as though we were all together in one room. We interact, and you can feel it, just as if we were physically together. We hug, we have on-line signals to indicate when we hug, share,

HOLY LAND TOUR

Visit The Holy Land With MCCers! August, 1998

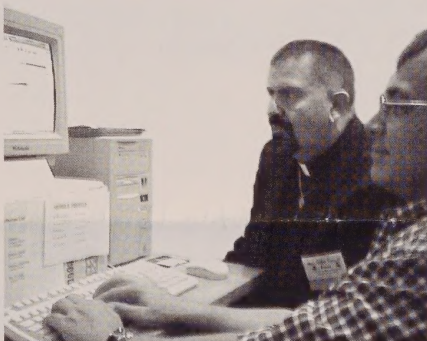
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■ **EXCEL of the Armadillo recently entertained Rev. Elder Troy Perry as a speaker at its weekend in the Houston area. Graduates of the weekend are pictured above. Below, Rev. Perry inaugurated the weekly UFMCC room for subscribers to American Online. The Chat Room is open for two hours each Friday evening within the PlanetOut area of AOL.**



Classified

Learn more about the Palms of Manasota! Conveniently located between Sarasota and Tampa Bay in Florida. For free information on the world's first retirement village for gays and lesbians, write to William J. Laing, Project Coordinator, Palms of Manasota, 220 49th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221, or call (941) 722-5858. Attention churches: You may want to write for information for your members.

MCC Asheville seeks a full time Pastor for our congregation of 50 members. The Asheville, NC area has population of 200,000 and is located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. We are looking for a pastor who is strong in worship, congregational care, and outreach. We currently share facilities with another church, but are actively looking for our own space. Please send resume and a recent sermon tape to MCC Asheville, Pastoral Search, PO Box 2359, Asheville, NC 28802.

Would you like to be a part of an increasing outreach to a major community? Would you like to pastor a church with successful ministries of deacons, music, and prayer partners, etc.? Would you like to live and work in a loving metropolitan city? Would you like to pastor a congregation of 100+ and growing? Then you are the pastor for us!!! MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO, is in the process of looking for a senior pastor. If interested, please send updated resume, statement of faith and recent video taped sermon to: Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 38069, St. Louis, MO 63138.

GETTING MARRIED? For the first Gay & Lesbian Wedding & Gift Catalog send \$2.00 to Family Celebrations, P.O. Box 3700, San Dimas, CA 91773; (888) 335-5998.

ASSISTANT PASTOR FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING sought by MCC Washington. Full time position beginning January 1, 1998. Starting salary \$30,000 with benefits. Please send resume with four references (2 professional and 2 personal) by November 15th to: MCC-DC, 474 Ridge Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001. Fax: (202) 638-4048.

St. Jude's MCC, Wilmington, NC is seeking a full-time pastor to provide dynamic leadership to a five-year-old, 60+ member congregation. The candidate must be capable of further developing existing outreach programs, support ministries, educational courses, cell group ministries, and worship services. Greater Wilmington is a unique seaport community of 120,000+ with tremendous growth potential for the church. Therefore, the candidate must be comfortable interacting with local clergy and community. Interested clergy may submit a resume packet, preferably including an audio or video tape, to the Pastoral Search Committee, St. Jude's MCC, 4326 Market Street, Suite 170, Wilmington, NC 28403. No phone calls, please.

Grace Fellowship MCC in Hendersonville, NC is seeking a clergy person for half-time position. GFMCC is a new work located in a city of 30 thousand people 30 minutes SE of Asheville, NC in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The congregation is growing and currently has 30-40 members/friends. Interested clergy please call (704) 696-9767 or e-mail susan@a-o.com, or write Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Grace Fellowship MCC, P.O. Box 812, Hendersonville, NC 28793, for more information

Are you an outgoing person who can share our vision, including church growth, a new worship space, and increased outreach in the community? Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, a small Chartered church, seeks a full-time pastor. If you are interested in leading a congregation with 23 years of commitment to Christ in central Iowa, send your resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 8426, Des Moines, Iowa 50301. Candidates replying by December 12, 1997, will receive first consideration.

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blush, and even cry. There is no requirement to share or even identify one's self; all are welcome. Most of our visitors are surprised by the love and support in the room. In addition to spiritual sharing and support, we have also had at least two long-term relationships and many close friendships that began in this chat room.

The real strength of this chat room is found in our love for each other. Add to that our diverse backgrounds, opinions and experiences and it's a powerful place visit on the Internet. Among the weekly visitors, you'll find clergy, laity, MCCers, non-MCCers and seekers. Our discussions range from "What is your favorite hymn?" to "Leviticus, Romans and the Religious Wrong" with occasional sports scores tossed in by certain members. You don't need a theological degree to join us, just a desire to spend time with fellow GLBT Christians online — and an AOL account.

We invite you to visit us! UFMCC GLBT Christian Chat is found on AOL using Keyword "PNO Chat" and selecting "Community Center." The webpage for the room is at <http://members.aol.com/pnotigger> and you can email the host at PNOTigger@aol.com.

UFMCC E-Mail Addresses

it's now easier than ever to communicate directly to UFMCC Headquarters individual staff members and departments. Here are the new direct e-mail addresses:

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General Information info@ufmccqh.com
Ravi Verma, Chief Operating Officer rverma@ufmccqh.com
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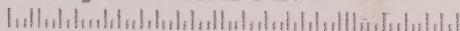
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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - SEPTEMBER 1997

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, Texas	\$8,527.46
2. MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$2,988.01
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, Florida	\$2,095.37
4. MCC San Francisco, California	\$1,855.36
5. MCC San Diego, California	\$1,501.76
6. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado	\$1,449.18
7. MCC New York, New York City, New York	\$1,408.61
8. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, Florida	\$1,353.29
9. Joy MCC, Orlando, Florida	\$1,353.12
10. MCC Long Beach, California	\$1,280.25
11. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$1,189.05
12. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, N. Carolina	\$1,182.23
13. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, Illinois	\$1,121.98
14. MCC New Haven, Connecticut	\$1,082.66
15. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$1,033.14
16. First MCC of Atlanta, Georgia	\$1,017.92
17. MCC Louisville, Kentucky	\$ 847.65
18. MCC Richmond, Virginia	\$ 825.90
19. MCC Charleston, S. Carolina	\$ 791.49
20. MCC Baltimore, Maryland	\$ 782.21

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - SEPTEMBER 1997

1. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, Illinois	\$93.50
2. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, Missouri	\$67.55
3. SisterSpirit, Portland, Oregon	\$58.78
4. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, California	\$50.81
5. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, Kansas	\$40.40
6. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, Illinois	\$31.85
7. Free to Be MCC, Belleville, Ont. Canada	\$30.27
8. Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, Arkansas	\$29.58
9. St. Augustine MCC, St. Augustine, Florida	\$29.52
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$29.21
11. MCC in the South Bay, Torrance, California	\$28.42
12. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, Georgia	\$27.87
13. MCC New Haven, Connecticut	\$26.21
14. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, Illinois	\$25.32
15. MCC in Charlottesville, Virginia	\$25.15
16. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$23.48
17. MCC Eugene, Oregon	\$23.17
18. MCC San Jose, California	\$22.68
19. MCC Long Beach, California	\$22.23
20. Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, Florida	\$22.07

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

**October
1997**

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

October: 30th Year Begins with Launch of Internet Cybercast

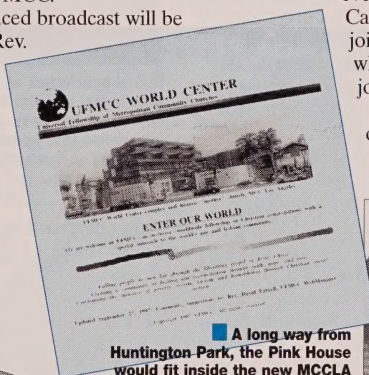
The month of October marks the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) – and the beginning of our 30th year!

From the first 12 persons who gathered in Troy Perry's living room in October of 1968, UFMCC has grown into an international movement of 300 congregations in 15 countries representing more than 42,000 members, and an even greater circle of friends and worshipers. More importantly, UFMCC has brought God's message of love and acceptance to untold numbers of people and has forever impacted the face of Christianity.

UFMCC marks this 29th anniversary month with the launching of a new, monthly Internet cybercast, "Out, Gifted and Blessed." This radio broadcast marks another significant technological advance for UFMCC.

Each fast-paced broadcast will be hosted by the Rev.

Troy Perry, and will include inspirational features, guest interviews, UFMCC musicians and late-breaking news from throughout the



A long way from Huntington Park, the Pink House would fit inside the new MCCLA sanctuary. And UFMCC now approaches outreach with high-tech tools like the web.

Fellowship. With October's "Lesbian and Gay History Month" in mind, the first program features excerpts from an early Troy Perry sermon.

Thanks to Internet technology, the program can be accessed by visiting the UFMCC website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>. You will find directions to connect directly. We invite you to tune in to this new broadcast which marks UFMCC's 29th Anniversary.

Princess Diana: UFMCC Has Memories

UFMCCers around the world joined their British Commonwealth counterparts in mourning the passing of Princess Diana. MCC congregants especially felt the loss of someone who helped to humanize the plight of persons with HIV and AIDS.

The Rev. Steve Pieters, Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry and a survivor of symptomatic HIV and AIDS since 1982, says, "I remember feeling untouchable when I was first sick. Princess Diana's example changed that for me and many other friends with AIDS. While we will sorely miss her presence in AIDS work, I pray that we will all continue to be inspired by her example of lovingkindness."

The Rev. Elder Hong Tan also recalled a meeting he had with Princess Diana. "A small group of 30 to 40 AIDS caregivers and patients was invited to an evening prayer service and tour of Westminster Cathedral. We had been told that a guest might be joining our group that evening. Imagine our surprise when Princess Diana entered quietly by herself and joined our group.

"We went around the circle introducing ourselves. When we came to Diana, her eyes twinkled and she simply said, 'My name is



Diana. I am a working Princess. But I may be in need of a job soon.' At that time, none of us knew the announcement of her divorce would be made the very next day.

"I will forever remember that she chose to spend the evening of her greatest personal distress with persons whose lives had been touched by HIV and AIDS. She had a gift for making each person feel precious and worthy. In recent years, she took on a prophetic voice for justice in our world. I think all of us in MCC should recall that her amazing and powerful voice was led by love for all people."

MCC Manchester in Great Britain was one of many MCC congregations to hold memorial services. The Candlelight Vigil led by the Rev. Andy Braunston was attended by 1500 persons and received national media coverage through the UK.

Leadership Conference to Introduce "Benchmarks"

Constant learning and continuous improvement are the purposes of benchmarks of excellence for local churches. The UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative Team has identified eight categories of functions common to all churches, and for each of these areas is developing tools that your church can use in its quest for quality in ministry. Creating a profile of churches that achieve high quality in each of these areas establishes benchmarks of excellence. By asking diagnostic questions provided in a self-study then using recommended resources and training opportunities, your church can improve the quality of its ministry.

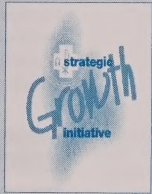
Three key workshop tracks will focus on benchmarks of excellence being developed by the UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative Team. The first series of five workshops will feature celebrative worship with a special emphasis on superb music. Another series will provide information and resources on building a culture of generosity through wholistic stewardship. A third track will show participants how to attract new people into a church, incorporate newcomers into the life of the congregation and mobilize members into ministry.

"Understanding Your Congregation As A System" will be the theme of Speed Leas, featured speaker for this leadership conference. Leas, a senior consultant with the Alban Institute, is widely known as a church development consultant and author. His books include *Understanding Your Congregation As A System*, coauthored with George Parsons, *Moving Your Church Through Conflict* and several other books on conflict management in the local church.

Bring a team from your church to this important

Seeking to improve the quality of your ministry?

The 1998 UFMCC Leadership Conference will introduce "Benchmarks of Excellence" for local churches, a vital ministry priority adopted recently



by General Conference XVIII. Once again, this growing biennial conference returns to the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona, one of North America's most beautiful conference resorts. The Leadership Conference is scheduled for August 13-16, 1998. Featured speaker will be Speed Leas, a senior consultant at the renowned Alban Institute. Complete details about Leadership Conference will be mailed soon to all UFMCC congregations.

Leadership Conference! Make your plans now to include pastoral staff, lay ministry leaders, members of Boards of Directors, and especially all congregants who are interested in seeing your church grow through the quality of its ministry.

The Robert H. Schuller Institute For Successful Church Leadership is another event very popular with the clergy and lay people of Metropolitan Community Churches. Last year more than 80 MCC leaders attended this institute. The theme for this year's institute is "Communicating the Christian Gospel To Build Strong Churches." The institute is scheduled for January 26-29, 1998 at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

Again, the Strategic Growth Initiative Team will be conducting events related to the Schuller Institute. Immediately prior to the beginning of the program, SGI will conduct a two-hour orientation to the Schuller Institute for MCC registrants. Following the institute, on January 30, the SGI Team will conduct a full-day program enabling MCC leaders to discuss experiences of the institute.

Registration fees for the Schuller Institute are \$65. (US) for individuals, and \$35 per person for groups of four or more registering at the same time. Major credit cards may be used for registration. To register, call the Crystal Cathedral at 714 544-5679; for additional information call 714 971-4343. To

register for the MCC meetings at this institute, contact the UFMCC's conference coordinator, Nathan Meckley, in the UFMCC offices at 310 360 8640 or via email at nmeckley@ufmccq.com. There is no registration fee for the SGI meetings.

Our Newest Church Reflects Energy of Its Pastor

"If a church is a reflection of its pastor, then MCC of the Coachella Valley (MCCCV) is a veritable dynamo!" That was one church member's reflection on the growth of MCCCV under the leadership of the Rev. David M. Pelletier, pastor.

In the first four months of his ministry, MCCCV has experienced significant growth.

How has the church accomplished so much so soon, you may ask? You need only take a look at the church's leader, Rev. David, to see why - take a look, that is, if you can spot him stopping long enough to catch his breath!

Rev. David has come to us following ten years on Maui, where he served most recently as the Director of Music for St. John's Episcopal Church.

But a year or so ago, David began to feel a call to something bigger. He sensed a need for the

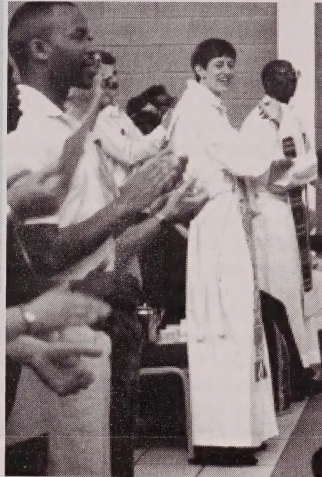
establishment of a church in the greater Palm Springs area, and so, after he explored the idea and things fell into place, he arrived on February 8, 1997, to begin his ministry here.

And what a ride it has been since then. Within a week of his arrival, Rev. David began putting out flyers and brochures, placing ads in the local gay magazines and newspapers, and - within three weeks, on March 2, 1997 - held the first service with 20 worshipers in attendance! Not a bad start for three week's effort.

The church also launched a church newsletter, *Out of the Closet*, which, incidentally, was literally published out of the pastor's home closet. And the congregation has launched a Food Closet as part of its AIDS ministry. Now the congregation is dreaming and praying of new ministries, including a community and youth center. Please remember MCCCV and all of our new UFMCC congregations with you prayers.

A Powerful Reminder that God Answers Prayer!

All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis, MN recently experienced a powerful reminder that God answers prayer. As they approached their 23rd Anniversary, the thriving congregation faced major



One benchmark of excellence: creating a celebratory worship experience with special emphasis on a superb music program.

financial needs to complete repairs on their church building.

So Pastor Paul Graetz began to seek a miracle. Thirty days before the church's anniversary, Pastor Graetz asked 1000 people to pray for an anniversary miracle. Together, the congregation set a goal to raise \$6000 in a one-day Anniversary Miracle Offering.

This active congregation caught the vision! When the anniversary offering was counted, gifts and tithes exceeded the weekly budget by \$12,000. The congregation was still rejoicing when news came that the IRS had settled a tax case by refunding \$7000 to the church.

"Our 23rd Anniversary was truly a time of miracles," said Pastor Graetz, "and we give all the credit to the power of prayer and faith in the life of our congregation."

Author Signorile Visits UFMCC, MCCLA

Michelangelo Signorile, controversial "Out Magazine" columnist and author, began a dialogue with UFMCC leadership when he made a weekend visit to UFMCC Global Headquarters and MCC Los Angeles in



Rev. Steve Pieters
Director HIV/AIDS Ministry

September. Calling MCC One of the two strongest grass-roots organizations of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered communities (the other being P-FLAG), Signorile urged leaders of MCC to form partnerships with other groups in HIV prevention activities, which move beyond simply following the condom code. In a community forum which attracted a near-full house at MCC LA, Signorile summarized his latest book, *Life Outside*, and discussed implications and suggestions for local communities. Critiquing "life inside" the gay male circuit party scene, he demonstrated how excesses

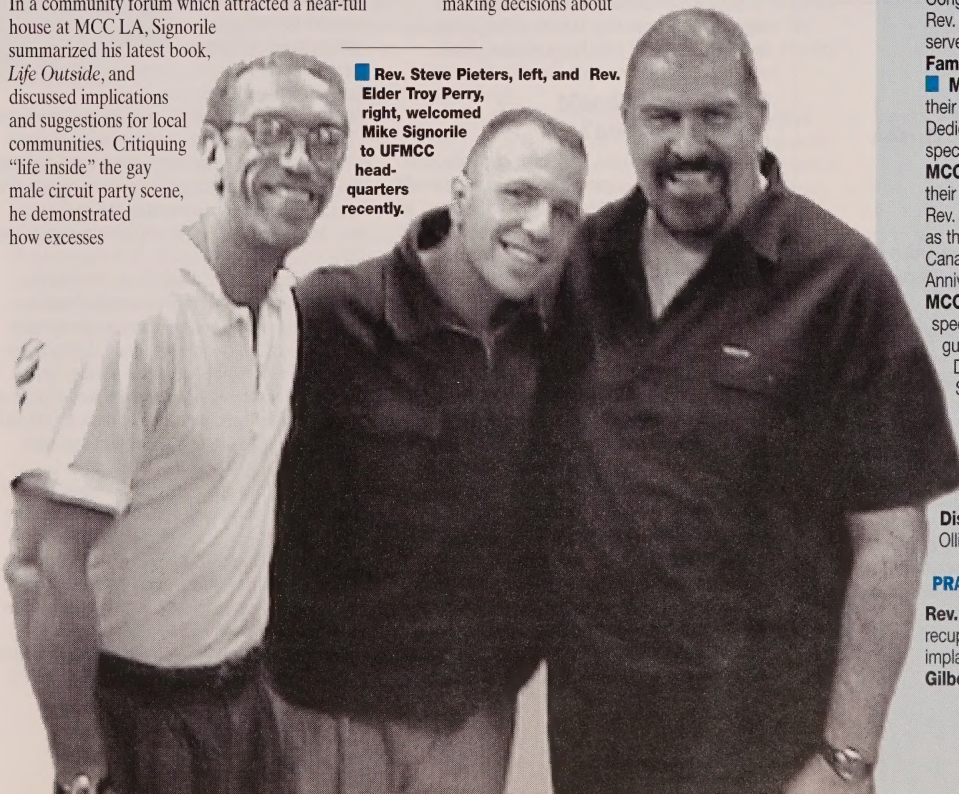
are affecting large numbers of gay men, even those who are not "circuit partiers." Combinations of powerful recreational and prescription drugs, alcohol, and the new fad of "barebacking" (unprotected sex) in the circuit party scene are ensuring that the HIV pandemic will continue to escalate.

As an alternative to the party scene, he describes "life outside" the urban gay male scene, and suggests that urban gay men would do well to learn from those outside the party scene, since their risk for HIV infection is so much less than in the urban scene. MCC is, in Signorile's view, an important alternative to the gay male party scene, and hence a good setting for HIV prevention work which goes beyond "pushing the condom code."

He suggested possible solutions including "post-modern monogamy," "negotiated safety" within relationships, and getting beyond the urban gay scene. He, too, recommends that gay men "learn from how [lesbians] construct their relationships and their families."

In his book, Signorile repeatedly identifies the Metropolitan Community Churches as a good resource for HIV prevention and as a healthy alternative to the gay male party scene. This raises questions regarding MCC's role in containing HIV. We are currently fighting for the legalization of same-sex marriage, but should we be actively promoting marriage, as an effective tool for HIV prevention? Should we be preaching against the excesses of the gay male circuit party scene, and all the ways that scene contributes to HIV transmission? Should we be guiding gay men in making decisions about

Rev. Steve Pieters, left, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry, right, welcomed Mike Signorile to UFMCC headquarters recently.



Congratulations to the Rev. Diane Fisher, who has been elected as the new District Coordinator for the **Eastern Canadian District**. ■ Welcome to the newest congregation in the GLAD District, **MCC Valdosta**, in South Georgia, which held its first service with 52 in attendance. ■ Winner of the "Ellen" Script Contest is Michelle Payan of **MCC Long Beach, CA**. ■ UFMCC is proud to announce it has signed on as an official co-sponsor with **GLAAD, PFLAG, HRC, and NGLTF** of October's "Lesbian and Gay History Month." ■ Edgar Mendoza has been re-elected to serve as the pastoral leader of **MCC Manila**, Philippines. ■ The **Australian District**, and Rev. Greg Smith, District Coordinator are now on-line; their new e-mail address is: mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au. ■ Good news from **Palm Springs, CA**, one of the Southwest District's growing congregations. They recently experienced record attendance and celebrated their 25th week of services with 55 people in worship. ■ Congratulations to **First MCC of Wichita, Kansas**, which celebrated its 21st Anniversary on September 5-7 with special guest Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey. ■ **MCC Knoxville**, Tennessee, has purchased their own building and the closing date is expected to be September 15th. Congratulations. ■ Congratulations to Rev. Ken Pilot who has been selected to serve as the interim pastor for **MCC Family in Christ** in Fort Collins, Colorado. ■ **MCC Louisville**, Kentucky, celebrated their 25th Anniversary and Building Dedication on September 12-14 with special guest Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry. ■ **MCC Huntsville**, Alabama will celebrate their 11th Anniversary on October 5. ■ Rev. Beverley Baptiste has been installed as the pastor of **MCC of Edmonton**, Canada. ■ October 6 marks the 29th Anniversary of the UFMCC Mother Church, **MCC Los Angeles, CA**. They will hold a special weekend celebration with special guests Rev. Elder Troy Perry and Rev. Delores Berry. ■ **MCC of Greenville, SC**, held a dedication of their building on September 19-21 with honored guest Rev. Jay Neely, Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coordinator. ■ Praise God for 3 newly ordained clergy in the **Mountains and Plains District**: Rev. Kurt Krieger, Rev. Clayton Ollis, Rev. Peggy Galloway.

PRAYERS

Rev. Jimmy Brock, Orlando, Florida is recuperating at home after surgery to implant a pacemaker. ■ Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Los Angeles, California was

Continued

behaviors and lifestyle choices which, according to Signorile, are enabling the epidemic transmission of HIV to escalate?

In the question and answer session following his presentation, a number of leading lesbian and gay activists in Los Angeles offered their own reflections on the need for change if we are ever to curb the spread of HIV. The only critical comment came from a man who identified himself as part of the circuit party scene. He claimed Signorile didn't give credit to the circuit party scene, saying "We have a great sense of family and spirituality." Signorile replied, "So did the members of Heaven's Gate."

Rev. Elders Troy Perry and Don Eastman met with Mike Signorile over lunch, and discussed further strategies for making MCC an effective partner in new HIV prevention efforts. Perry and Eastman were both enthusiastic about continuing the dialogue with Signorile, and made plans for future meetings.

When Mike spoke as part of the "Mentor Series" in worship at MCC LA, he was again greeted with an enthusiastic standing ovation. He once again reiterated the need for new and different approaches to HIV prevention. He encouraged MCC to preach and teach what will encourage and sustain life, while remaining sex-positive.

Renowned AIDS research physician, Alexandra M. Levine, M.D., a member of the U.S. President's Commission on HIV/AIDS, says, "It is very clear to

me that human beings cannot be exposed intimately to all of the germs of so many different people, and still be able to get away with it. Biologically, if we could cure AIDS tomorrow, but did not change behaviors, I guarantee that there will be another major sexually transmitted disease epidemic, and another, and another, and another. Biologically, there is a limit to the freedom which you may want."

Sex is good. HIV transmission is bad. Signorile talked about upholding both values. We must ask why, with all we know, we still are spreading HIV. Are we sacrificing the health, the lives and the future of other gay men, and of our churches, to our desire for an "anything goes" expression of our sexuality?

Signorile challenged the leaders of the Metropolitan Community Churches to openly encourage, model, and support lifestyle choices and behaviors which will simultaneously celebrate sexuality, sustain life, and decrease the epidemic transmission of HIV. For many of us, this will mean changing our sexual behaviors to one degree or another. It is our challenge to do this while remaining sex-positive, and celebrating the goodness of the erotic. The Metropolitan Community Churches are in a unique place to help make these changes.

Signorile, Michelangelo. *Life Outside: The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscles, and the Passages of Life*. HarperCollins, 1997.

Which Goal Should be Number One?

On one Sunday in 1968, Troy made perfectly clear his vision for our Universal Fellowship: "We would stand up for all our rights, secular and religious," he proclaimed, "and we would



Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

JUSTICE

start fighting the many forms of tyranny that oppress us." Troy's call to arms sounded like the prophet Micah's call "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, (Micah 6:8)." It sounded like Jesus' call in His angry rebuke to the Pharisees: "You know how to tithe the tiniest mint in your garden, but you forget the weightier matters of the Law: justice, mercy, and truth (Matt.23:23)."

Over the centuries, while Jewish priests were calling people to worship God at the Temple with songs, prayers and offerings, God's voice spoke through the prophets, rebuking the priest's "loud songs and noisy religious assemblies," calling the people instead to do justice (make things fair) for widows, orphans and strangers at the gate. The only time Jesus described the final judgment, he made it clear that salvation would come only to those who

MOVING TOWARDS

■ The UFMCC is a Christian church founded in and reaching beyond the Gay and Lesbian communities.

■ We embody and proclaim Christian salvation and liberation, Christian inclusivity and community, and Christian social action and justice.

■ We serve among those seeking and celebrating the integration of their spirituality and sexuality.

Mission Statement adopted at General Conference XVIII, Sydney, Australia

feed the hungry, house the homeless, and free the oppressed, (Matthew 23:31-46).

Although we've been faithful to Troy's "three-pronged Gospel" I think we've been faithful in the wrong order. At the risk of being misunderstood, I would like to suggest we consider reversing that order to read: "Christian Social Action, Community, and Salvation." Not that salvation is less important than Christian social action or community; but because salvation (knowing Jesus authentically as Sovereign and Savior) is more likely to happen to people who have seen Jesus in our commitment to justice and have felt His presence in our active communities of faith.

The living Spirit of Christ is out there in the world doing justice (or in Troy's original words, "fighting the many forms of tyranny that oppress us.") Jesus calls us to join him there. Is it possible that even the most devout of us will never know Jesus authentically as Sovereign and Savior until we hear Christ's call and join him out there on the field of battle doing justice and caring for those who suffer?

Leaders of the great justice movements make it clear. New tyrannies will always rise up to replace the old, but in the process of opposing those tyrannies we discover the power and the presence of God in our lives. I'm beginning to believe that we can only know Jesus intimately ourselves when we hear and obey His call to justice, mercy, and truth. And that our witness to others will be hollow and ineffective until that day.



Gay Theological Journal

Homosexual Hermeneutics on Religion and the Scriptures

Covers the entire spectrum of spiritual issues confronting Gays and Lesbians. Along with insightful features, the Journal includes commentary, religious news, resources, reviews and listings of inclusive, affirming congregations. Subscriptions are \$20/year (individuals) and \$30/year (institutions).

To subscribe, contact the Journal at P. O. Box 1129, Manassas, VA 20110. Call toll-free for Visa and MasterCard orders: 1-800-215-1881



■ **Ministry Training School provides an intense week of training in missions and evangelism. This annual affair was recently held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.**



This is my dream. The Universal Fellowship decides that "Christian social action" will be the first of our three goals for the new millennium. The Elders and District Coordinators meet with Troy to create our international justice strategy. Our local mission statements, church programs,

worship services, annual budgets are re-shaped to reflect our primary commitment to Christian social action. Every UFMCC member is urged to sign a personal commitment to join Jesus in doing justice and relieving suffering at home and around the globe.

Our Fellowship works side-by-side with our allies in our nations and our communities to do political justice. We create (or work with other organizations in our home towns to create) 24 hour emergency phone lines, a coffee house, a reading room, a dating service, a counseling center, a food bank, a free clinic, an AIDS service center, every imaginable program to make things fair for lonely lesbians and gays in our neighborhoods.

Christian churches would see Jesus reflected in our lives as we worked to bring justice to the oppressed and relief to those who suffer. They would be inspired by our sense of community and find Christ as personal Sovereign and Savior in the process. There it is: Christian social action, community, and salvation.

On Saturday, September 13, the people of India gave Mother Teresa a state funeral. Millions of poor and oppressed peoples honored her life and mourned her death. She was a Catholic in a predominantly Hindu country. She came as a "religious" to tell

people about Jesus. But she began with Christian social action, helping the sick to live and die with dignity. She then built communities of "religious" committed to doing justice and relieving suffering. And in the process of Christian social action and community the entire nation saw Jesus as they had never seen him before.

My first goal is the same as yours: to tell people about Jesus. But during my short tenure as your Minister of Justice, I have begun to realize that it isn't something we say that will convince our community of His power and presence in our lives. It is something we do. From that first Sunday service in Troy's living room, Christian social action has been number three of our "three-pronged Gospel." Isn't it time we seriously consider making it number one?

Ministry Training School in Colorado Springs

The annual Ministry Training School sponsored by MCC Long Beach (CA) and Encounter Missions International recently took place in Colorado Springs, CO. This year's event was hosted by the Rev. Nori Rost and MCC Pike's Peak. The Rev. Elder Don Eastman was the guest speaker.

Ministry Training Schools provide an intensive week of training in evangelism and missions. Morning sessions are designed around topical studies such as faith, spiritual warfare, worship and praise, leadership, missions, etc. Afternoons allow students to select specialized areas of interest such as music, dance, drama, evangelism or intercession. The week's training culminates in a public outreach ministry in which student's use their gifts and new-found knowledge.

The 1998 Ministry Training School will be held at MCC Long Beach from August 11-16, according to the Rev. Sandra Turnbull, pastor. For additional information, write to them at 923 Ocean Blvd., Suite 3, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Pension Plan Eligibility Requirements for Clergy

Clergy who have been in active ministry for four or more years are eligible to participate in the UFMCC pension plan. If you are eligible but are not currently participating, the Board of Pensions and the Director of Clergy Development has mailed you a packet of information for you to consider.



Rev. Justin Tanis
Clergy Development

We have also developed a new packet for clergy considering retirement that outlines the process of retiring your UFMCC credentials and accessing your pension benefits.

If you have questions about either of these resources or need a packet of information, please contact the Rev. Justin Tanis at revjtanis@ufmccq.com or 310-360-8640, x225.

A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

recently hospitalized in San Diego. ■ We are saddened to report the death of **Carlos Gomez** of Mexico. Carlos was in Clergy formation and was well known in the Mexico churches. He is survived by his partner, Luis, and his family. ■ Prayers for **Alek**, a young Russian man who contacted UFMCC about the possibility of beginning an MCC in Russia. Alek visited UFMCC earlier this year and met with Rev. Elder Troy Perry. We are maintaining contact with him and exploring options. ■ Prayers for **Rev. Kurt Krieger** whose mother died in July and as he will be visiting Christ Alive MCC of Vancouver, Canada to explore ministry options.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

■ October 3-5 **Third Annual Spiritual Retreat** "A Spiritual Approach to Leadership" sponsored by Vieux Carre' MCC of New Orleans, LA held at the Feliciana Retreat Center. Guest facilitator will be Rev. Eleanor Nealy, South Central District Coordinator.

■ October 30-November 2 **Southeast District Conference** "Living Victorious Lives" held at the Best Western in Tampa, Florida. Special Guest: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson.

■ November 7-9 **Southwest District Conference** "A Glorious Witness" held at MCC Los Angeles, West Hollywood, California. Special feature, the inclusion of a mini-conference entitled "Front Door, Side Door, Back Door" will be held on November 7.

■ November 7-9 **Northeast District Conference** "And All We're Fed, Ministry of Hospitality" (Daniel 4:12), held in Hartford, Connecticut.

■ November 10 **White House Conference on Hate Crimes**, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, participating.

■ November 14-16 **European District Conference** to be held in Blackpool. Conference will focus on fellowship, workshops and worship.

■ November 14-16 **Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference** "Joy In The Name" held in Atlanta, Georgia and sponsored by all three Atlanta MCC's (All Saints, Christ Covenant and First). Three exciting and inspirational guests for the weekend: Rev. Delores Berry, Rev. Carolyn Mobley, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

■ November 14-16 **Mid-Atlantic District Conference** "Leadership 2000: Mobilizing For Ministry" held in Laurel, Maryland. Special guest and Keynote speaker will be Rev. Elder Don Eastman.

■ November 28-30 **Excel in Faithfulness Abunchovum Weekend** held in Dickinson, Texas.

UFMCC Children's Web Page Updated

The Kids Page on the UFMCC website has been updated with lots of new materials and information! In fact, you'll discover the most activities we've had to date! You can visit the website at <http://www.gwocities.com/WestHollywood/1490/mcckids.html>.

The website organizers are also seeking contri-

butions! If anyone is interested in contributing inclusive submissions, please contact them. According to Beverly Mitzel, they are particularly looking for inclusive activities which include the women of the Bible. The website also invites children to submit artwork that can be shared around the Fellowship. We will begin to use children's Sunday School artwork on the page next month.

Resources for Continued Spiritual Growth

Rev. Justin Tanis

Paying attention to our own spiritual growth is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to our churches and to ourselves as leaders. I have experienced this with abundance over the past year as I have undergone my own coming out as a trans-



HANDS ON

Helpful Resources for Local congregations

gendered person, feeling times of spiritual growth, wonder, struggle, peace, questions and joy.

Be committed to your own struggles and spiritual growth. There are many resources out there—look for the ones that are right for you. To get you started, here are a few that ask questions for you to consider ... you can do them a day at a time or use them to create your own retreat for a day.

Anthony deMello, S.J., **Wellsprings: A Book of Spiritual Exercises**, (New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Auckland: Image Books, Doubleday, 1986). Each short chapter contains a series of meditations and questions that connect the teachings of Jesus to our own lives. The brief, focused questions point directly to deeper spiritual truths.

Thomas Naylor, William Willimon and Magdalena Naylor, **The Search for Meaning Workbook**, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994). Based on their book of the same title, the workbook allows you to expand your own thoughts on a wide variety of spiritual issues. This book takes very seriously spiritual concerns and growth and care of the soul, while not taking an explicit religious stance. It is up to those who do the workbook to bring their own faith to their answers.

Robert Schnase, **Testing and Reclaiming Your Call to Ministry**, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991). Written for clergy who seek to re-explore their call after a time in ministry, this book engages seriously and thoughtfully questions of doubt, faith, excitement and burnout. Each chapter ends with a series of questions to consider that get to the heart of the issues faced by clergy today.

Jann Mitchell, **Home Sweeter Home: Creating a Haven of Simplicity and Spirit**, (Canada: Beyond Words Publishing, Inc., 1996). This book offers a series of questions and practical, every day suggestions for bringing spirituality and comfort to your home.

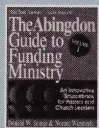
MCC Bournemouth Grows from 15 to 85

Metropolitan Community Church of

Bournemouth, England received its 85th member in August. In the seven year pastorate of Rev. Neil G. Thomas the church has grown from 15 to 85 members with average Sunday attendance just over 100. The church owns its own worship facility and is currently looking at expanding these facilities. At

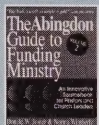
UFMCC RESOURCE CENTER IS YOUR INFORMATION SOURCE

Build a Strong Foundation for Your Ministries with a Firm Financial Base ...



The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry Volume 1: Developing a Perspective on Giving

BP9704
\$15.00



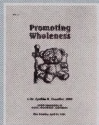
The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry Volume 2: Teaching the Joy of Giving

BP9705
\$15.00



The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry Volume 3: Proclaiming the Joy of Giving

BP9706
\$15.00



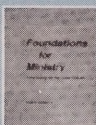
A Stewardship Manual for MCC Congregations

SR0002
\$15.00



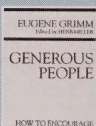
44 Ways to Expand the Financial Base of Your Congregation

Lyle Schaller
BP0017
\$11.00



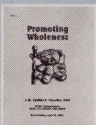
Foundations for Ministry: Fundraising in the Local Church

Linton Stables III
BP0079
\$15.00



Generous People

Eugene Grimm
BP9728
\$11.00



Making Our Lives Count

Rev. Jeffrey Pulling
SR0001
\$5.00

UFMCC Bylaws (1997)

CS0002 \$1.50

The UFMCC Resource Center "Equipping the Church for the work of the ministry in the 21st Century"

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the Church Committee Meeting in August the committee agreed to begin the process of paying the Assistant Pastor, Rev. Amanda McCullough.

Global Outreach Salutes Contributors

UFMCC Global Outreach salutes the "Most Faithful and Most Constant Contributors" in 1997 to date.



Rev. Judy Dahl, Global Outreach

Daytona Beach, FL; Maranatha, Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX; MCC Charleston, SC; MCC of the Central Coast, San Luis Obispo, CA; MCC San Antonio, TX; MCC Seattle, WA; Pikes Peak MCC,

Districts: South Central, Southwest, Great Lakes.

Churches: Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX; Hope MCC,



Colorado Springs, CO; Redeemer MCC, Flint, MI; Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA; Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL; MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX; MCC New York, NY; MCC Los Angeles, CA; MCC Long Beach, CA; MCC DC, Washington D.C.; MCC Mobile, AL; King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL.

UFMCC Staff Supports Disney Policy

The UFMCC Headquarters held its recent all-day off-site staff retreat at Disneyland to show its support for Disney's gay-friendly employment policies and to combat the boycott by the Religious Right.

"This was a great event in which we analyzed staff functions at General

Conference XVIII and did pre-planning for the World Jubilee and General Conference XIX to be held in 1999 in Los Angeles," said Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration. "It provided an opportunity to express our appreciation to our Headquarters Staff while also showing our support for Disney," he added. Following the day-long work sessions, the staff enjoyed an evening of fun at Disneyland.

Convenient New Fellowship Staff E-Mail Addresses

it's now easier than ever to communicate directly to UFMCC Headquarters staff. Here are the new direct e-mail addresses:

General Information

info@ufmccqh.com

Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

rverma@ufmccqh.com

Don Eastman, Treasurer/SGI

revdeastman@ufmccqh.com

Frank Zerilli, Asst. to Troy Perry

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Press Inquiries

communications@ufmccqh.com

Classified

MCC Charlotte (North Carolina), a chartered church with 135+ members seeks enthusiastic and experienced preacher/teacher/mentor for full-time Senior Pastor position. Dynamic preaching a must. Resumes/tapes accepted until position is filled. Contact: MCCC Pastoral Search Committee, 4037 East Independence Blvd., Suite 300, Charlotte, NC. 28205. (704) 563-5810.

GREAT SAVINGS on dental, vision, & prescriptions. Community friendly. \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949. #AF60697A10110.

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Lead us into the 21st Century! Seeking Spirit-filled pastor interested in a long-term commitment to our spiritually-diverse church. Situated in one of the most beautiful locations in America, we are offering a pastorate part-time with benefits. Self-motivated, credentialed clergy should request pastoral search application packet. Write Pastoral Search Team, MCC of the Blue Ridge, P.O. Box 20495, Roanoke, VA 24018 — or request packet by e-mail at KHGFILL@roanoke.vdh.state.va.us.

MCC of Greater Tulsa is seeking a vibrant, spirit-filled pastor to guide our church into the future. We are a commissioned church that has much to offer: a 23 year old UFMCC congregation, a building that is completely paid for and an administrative body that has no outstanding debts or titles! We offer a part-time pastorate with benefits negotiable for UFMCC credentialed clergy. We are also prepared to help with moving expense. The past two years without a pastor has taught us to trust in God more than ever. We have become a healthy church that is now ready for growth. Here is a great source of untapped potential waiting for just the right pastor. Are you the one? Interested clergy should submit a resume and recent preaching video to Pastoral Search, P.O. Box 581702, Tulsa, OK 74158-1702. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

Classified ad rate: \$15 for first 20 words, 75 cents for each additional word. Advertising Deadline: The 15th of the month prior to publication.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping In Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmccqh@aol.com Web site http://www.ufmcc.com. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - AUGUST 1997

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas	\$4,350.20
2. MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$3,622.53
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, Florida	\$3,216.58
4. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, California	\$2,420.22
5. MCC San Diego, San Diego, California	\$2,217.29
6. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, Florida	\$1,919.58
7. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, California	\$1,813.48
8. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia	\$1,756.96
9. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$1,742.04
10. Joy MCC, Orlando, Florida	\$1,436.75
11. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$1,384.35
12. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, N Carolina	\$1,362.80
13. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado	\$1,346.47
14. MCC New York, New York City, New York	\$1,306.47
15. MCC Richmond, Richmond, Virginia	\$1,248.27
16. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, Missouri	\$1,141.60
17. MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland	\$1,095.66
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, Missouri	\$1,011.59
19. MCC Charleston, Charleston, S Carolina	\$990.46
20. Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, Georgia	\$982.66

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - AUGUST 1997

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, California	\$47.20
2. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, Missouri	\$42.05
3. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, Texas	\$39.77
4. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, Kansas	\$38.98
5. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, California	\$38.60
6. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, Illinois	\$36.09
7. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, Colorado	\$32.68
8. MCC Ventura, Ventura, California	\$31.71
9. MCC San Jose, San Jose, California	\$31.47
10. Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, Arkansas	\$29.36
11. MCC Glendale, Glendale, California	\$28.78
12. Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas	\$28.48
13. Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, New Jersey	\$24.88
14. St. Augustine MCC, St. Augustine, Florida	\$23.43
15. MCC Boston, Boston, Massachusetts	\$22.95
16. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico	\$22.59
17. MCC in the South Bay, Torrance, California	\$22.43
18. MCC Charleston, Charleston, S Carolina	\$22.26
19. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, New York	\$22.20
20. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, California	\$22.11

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

September
1997

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

UFMCC General Conference XVIII: Making History... Charting the Future!

The UFMCC made history during July as General Conference XVIII became the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered spirituality gathering ever held in the Pacific Rim.

From the Opening Rally with more than 1600 in attendance, there was a feeling of excitement and history in the air! Delegates and attendees gathered from 15 countries for an inspiring week of worship, workshops and business.

A highlight of conference business was the election of elders. The Rev. Darlene Garner and the Rev. Hong Tan were re-elected as elders. On a subsequent ballot, Mr. Clarke Friesen was elected to the board (see box on page 2). Delegates did not reach consensus on the final position. Under UFMCC by-laws, the Board of Elders will appoint the final position, which will be affirmed by General Council in October.

In an exciting move for UFMCC, delegates approved new mission, vision and core values statements. These new documents provide a positive framework in which UFMCC will do ministry. Delegates also adopted the new Ministry Priorities, which will form the basis of UFMCC's new budgeting process. In other business, delegates rejected a proposal to hold General Conference every three years.

Conference organizer Nathan Meckley and UFMCC Director of Administration Ravi Verma expressed the Fellowship's appreciation to the Australian churches for their hospitality, planning and organization. "The Australians have provided an outstanding example of intercultural work and ministry which will serve as a model for UFMCC for many years to come. We are deeply thankful to our Australian hosts for their exemplary work in preparing and hosting General Conference."

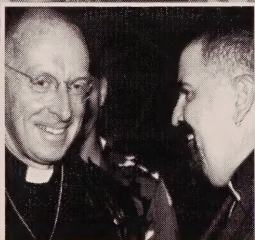
Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung: Key Ingredient To Successful Conference!

Rev. Sandra Robinson

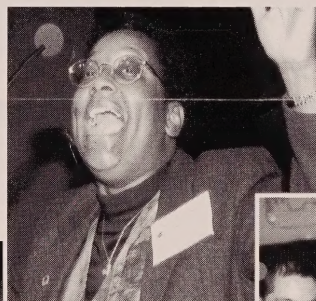
General Conference Eighteen in Sydney, Australia was, in this writer's opinion, the best General Conference in Fellowship history. One of the ingredients to this success was Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung. Dr. Chung, Professor of Ecumenics at Union



■ Above, conference erupts in one of its many joyful moments during the week.



■ Rev. Greg Smith, pastor of MCC Sydney, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry, above, share a private moment.



■ Would it be conference without the joyful song leading of Rev. Carolyn Mobley, left? Below, retiring Elder Larry Rodriguez is honored for his years of service. But who's happier, Larry or his spouse, Case?



Conference of
Joy!

Theological Seminary, is the author of *Struggle to be the Sun Again: Introducing Asian Women's Theology*.

Dr. Chung was the conference keynote speaker, presenting "Love in the time of AIDS: Reflections on a New Civilization which Empowers our Resistance, Liberation, and Healing for the 21st Century." She also facilitated workshops entitled, "Asian Eco-Feminist Ta Chi: Eventually Beauty will Save Us All" and "Asian Approach to Healing and Health".

Monday evening the conference was given a spiritual gift during Dr. Chung's sermon. It was a refreshing and startling conversation which



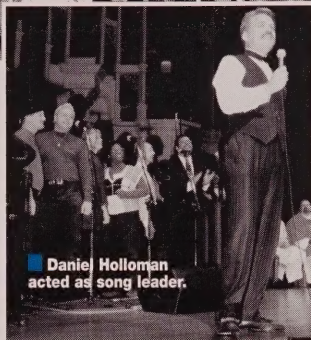
intimately unfolded her personal journey of spirituality and sexual consciousness. We were given a trust-filled glimpse at how theology develops within a soul-seeking truth guided by the culture of her ancestors and deep faith.

Those of us who were present during Dr. Chung's 1991 keynote address at the World Council of Churches General Assembly in Canberra, Australia, were reminded again of the power of her faith which challenges traditional status quo Christianity. She spoke to the theme of the General Assembly, "Come Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation," admonishing the Christian Church to notice and then hear how the Holy Spirit moves and acts within and through people and culture ... this being the only answer to true repentance.

Dr. Chung's theological questioning "comes from [her] anger and hope as a Third World woman who refuses to be victimized by any kind of colonialism." Her theology "is also inspired by



■ A highlight of the week was Conference Choir.



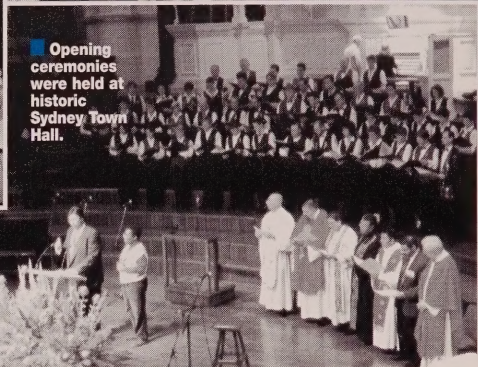
■ Daniel Holloman acted as song leader.

[her] burning desire for self-determination and it originates from a liberation oriented, Third World interpretation of people's history."

During her keynote to the Universal Fellowship she urged us to prepare for the events of a rapidly changing world through continuous "social analysis." She regards the UFMCC as perhaps the most important religious movement as the world approaches the new millennium. She recalled and returned us to our roots, the special revelation given to us by God 29 years ago, that God loves all people including our sexual selves. She believes that living a healthy and life-promoting understanding of spirituality and sexuality is the nature of this special revelation. She named us the "prophets of love" and urged us to freely and joyfully be prophetic into the 21st century.



Conference of Praise



■ Opening ceremonies were held at historic Sydney Town Hall.

Technology Enhances General Conference XVIII!

Rev. David Farrell

The statistics are staggering! 86,199 hits on the World Center website (www.ufmcc.com) during month of July 1997! 38,249 hits on Virtual General Conference website during conference week! 3,500 people hear Opening Address over the Internet! Six Internet chat sessions bring conference discussions home to MCCers! 150 attend conference technology workshop "The Church Online!"

It happened! For the first time, computers and the Internet brought General Conference "home" to thousands of MCCers all over the world. The statistics listed above are only a partial measure of the impact of UFMCC's use of new information technologies in the presentation of General Conference XVIII ... the real story is the inclusion and participation of thousands of MCCers who were "present" in a new way in Sydney, Australia.

People from 52 countries began visiting the Virtual General Conference Center on the World Center website. Day after day, the counter went up as people checked in to see and hear the latest news, election results and photos of conference activities. By week's end, 38,249 hits had been recorded on the Virtual Center, boosting the monthly website total to an all-time high of 86,199 hits in July!

Meet Newly Elected Elder Clarke Friesen

As the only lay person currently on the Board of Elders, Clarke Friesen brings a wealth of UFMCC experience to the position. Mennonite by background, Clarke is currently a member of Water of Life MCC in Tucson, AZ. He previously spent more than 22 years as an active member of MCC of the Resurrection in Houston, TX, where he served in many leadership positions, and is a former UFMCC District Coordinator for the South Central District.



Prior to his election, Clarke noted, "I hold a vision of UFMCC as a church that places priority on the evangelical message of Jesus Christ, a church that continues to break down all barriers, a church on the cutting edge theologically, a church international, a church that works in the greater community to promote issues of justice.

"I believe that our structures must be focused on equipping the local churches for effective and powerful ministry in their communities. I believe all actions, decisions, proposals and programs must be evaluated with the question, 'How will this benefit or support the local church?'"

He also noted, "I applaud our move to utilize new technology. I envision utilizing technological advances to work smarter and be even more effective in sharing the message God has entrusted to us to build the church for the 21st century."

Perry Receives White House Invitation

As this issue of *Keeping In Touch* was going to press, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry received an invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton to participate in the November White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

The White House Conference will explore federal options for dealing with hate crimes based on religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation. More than 20 UFMCC congregations have been victimized by arson or bombings, noted Perry.

"UFMCC is unique in American society for having been targeted for hate crimes both on the basis of our religious beliefs and because of sexual orientation," Perry added. "Proportionally, no other institution in America has been the recipient of arson, bombing, vandalism and desecration motivated by hate crimes as have the churches of UFMCC. I welcome an opportunity to make our voice heard at this national conference and to call for implementation of an expanded federal hate crimes law."

On Monday, July 20th,

MCC members, friends and website visitors began listening to the Internet webcast of Rev. Perry's Opening Address to the General Conference in Sydney. In addition to the gathering of delegates and observers at the Darling Harbour Convention Center, more than 3,500 people have listened to the address over the Internet, by accessing www.ufmcc.com or the GloRadio website!

At regular intervals during the week, MCCers and cyber-visitors gathered around their computers to participate in a series of six chat sessions (a total of 12 hours!) on America Online and the Worldwide Web. Discussion topics ranging from daily conference business to elders' election results, these MCCers were part of the action at General Conference XVIII.

The Technology Workshop on Friday afternoon: "The Church Online; Evangelizing the World; All Together...All at Once...All the Time!" drew more than 150 interested attendees eager to learn how to use the latest information technologies to grow the ministry of their local churches. Those present learned to use the World Center website as a conduit for late-breaking Fellowship news and as a resource center for many UFMCC materials. In addition, attendees were told how every MCC can have a beautiful and effective webpage on the Internet free of charge!

Computer technology also enhanced workshops, business meetings and worship activities during the conference. A huge round of applause is due to our excellent conference staff and volunteers who provided support services and much appreciated encouragement during a busy, hectic week. Thanks are also due to Mark Hahn, Sparkle Clark, Beverly Mitzel for the workshop and the Chats, and the many volunteers who provided info and photos throughout the week.

And especially to the MCCs who held virtual General Conference parties to provide computer access to

their members, and to all of the MCCers and cyber-travelers whose enthusiastic participation made UFMCC's first adventure in cyberspace a big success. Thank you and God bless you!

Perry, Tutu to Meet in December

The Rev. Elder Troy Perry will meet with human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu in Capetown, South Africa on December 10, 1997, it was announced this week. Perry and Tutu will discuss the growth of UFMCC in South Africa and review international human rights activities.

UFMCC played an instrumental role in adding broad legal protection for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities to the South African Constitution. Perry will conduct a preaching tour of South African UFMCC congregations December 1-15. According to the UFMCC Elders Report, some of UFMCC's greatest international growth is currently occurring in South Africa.

■ More diverse than any in the past, General conference attracted delegates and participants from 15 countries.



Spanish-speaking participants joined Larry Rodriguez after his last sermon as Elder.



A Fellowship of Activity

Wonderful praise and thank you goes to the **Sydney Organizing Site**

Committee for all their work and preparation for a grand and glorious General Conference XVIII. This Committee consisted of the following very talented individuals: Rev. Robert Clark, Rev. Greg Smith, Rev. Cliff Conners, Mr. Bruce Gray, Ms. Shelagh Zinke, and Mr. Paul Truscott. ■

Special thanks also to the **District Committee** and the **District of Australia** and the committed churches, clergy and members who have worked tirelessly to assure the success of General Conference in Australia. ■ Congratulations to Ms. Beryl Quennell, District Lay Coordinator for the **European District** who was re-elected as assistant chair of the UFMCC Commission on the Laity. ■ Rev. Paul Whiting has been elected as the new pastor of **MCC in Gainesville, Florida**.

■ Congratulations to Mr. Richard Waugh, St. Petersburg, Florida, the winner of a giant Koala, during a fundraiser at General Conference in Australia. ■ Rev. John Hankins, **All Saints MCC**, Atlanta, Georgia, conducted a commitment ceremony for nearly a hundred couples at Atlanta's Pride celebration in June. ■ MCC at the U.S. National Cathedral? You bet! The **MCC Washington, DC**, Gospel

Choir was the featured performer at the Cathedral Summer Concert event in June. Between 800 - 1,000 people enjoyed what was an amazing Spirit-filled musical event. The Washington Post headline said it all: "An Electric Gospel Choir." ■

MCC of the Rainbow, Jackson, Mississippi, sponsored Legal Assistance Day in Jackson for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons in cooperation with the ACLU in June. ■ Praise God - **Samaritan Institute** is offering "Understanding the Bible, Part II (New Testament)" in Pretoria, South Africa.

Rev. Sue Welman, pastor of Deo Gloria Family Church MCC, has been named faculty. ■ **Harvest MCC**, Denton, Texas received the South Central District Excellence in Ministry Award at their May District Conference. The award read: "presented to Harvest MCC for your faithfulness to the vision of the UFMCC in the face of opposition from the City of Corinth." ■ Rev. Marcie Wexler will begin her ministry as the new pastor of **Holy Fellowship MCC**,

Continued

One-Day Church Growth Mini-Conference Announced

How do people find your church? Why do they stay, and when do they leave? These questions will be answered during the Church Growth Mini-Conference to be held in West Hollywood, CA on Friday, Nov. 7 as part of the Southwest District Conference. Six one-hour sessions will discuss contemporary trends and personal reasons people choose a local church, and why they stay. From creative outreach to user-friendly worship, and effective visitor follow-up to mobilizing members for ministry, workshop participants will discover new skills and resources for church growth. Facilitators for this one-day mini-conference will be the Rev. Elder Don Eastman and James Birkitt, UFMCC Director of Communications. Registration information is available through the Southwest District Office at (805) 483-5424.

In Touch with Samaritan

The President, Dean and four Trustees of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies attended General Conference in Sydney, Australia. The Conference was filled with exciting possibilities and opportunities for networking, learning, teaching and meeting new people.

It was an important opportunity for the alumni of the Polity/Practices class of 1992 and the class of 1996 to gather, meet with the Dean and catch up with each other's lives while raising toasts to successful ministries.

Rev. Sue Welman and her partner Diane, were invited to meet with the President and Dean during a reception hosted by Darlene Stilles and

Rev. Reid L. Christensen

On Friday, August 1 at 11:45 PM, the Rev. Reid L. Christensen, Pastor Emeritus of First MCC Atlanta, went home to be with the Lord after an extended bout with cancer. Dr. John Moore, his loving companion of 21 years, was at his bedside.

Please continue to uphold John in your prayers, as well as the congregation at First MCC Atlanta. Phone calls of condolence should go through the church office at (404) 325-4143.

A Memorial Service for the Rev. Reid Christensen was held at First MCC Atlanta on Saturday, August 30.

The snack area always becomes a meeting place ...

Dr. Lo Sprague makes a point during her workshop.

Cynthia Marquard, President of Envoy Travel. We discussed academic and leadership training possibilities while learning about their vital ministry in South Africa.

Dr. West presented a workshop: "Eunuchs, Euphemisms and the Politics of Biblical Interpretation" a very successful workshop attended by 115 people; and facilitated "Doing Yourself Justice: Reconnecting Personal Power for Effective Leadership in Ministry" with the Director of Clergy Development, Rev. Justin Tannis and the Administrator for Global Outreach, Rev. Judy Dahl.

New UFMCC Resource Center Catalog Published

Looking for worship resources? HIV/AIDS ministry materials? Children's programming ideas? Ways to reach and keep new members? Ideas for integrating spirituality and sexuality? Fund raising ideas? Then you'll want a copy of the new UFMCC Resource Center Catalog.

This catalog lists more than 140 books, pamphlets and resources available through the UFMCC Resource Center! For your free copy, write UFMCC Headquarters, or send an e-mail request to UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

Houston MCC Event Draws 2100 Persons

Congratulations to the choirs of MCC of the Resurrection (Houston, TX) and MCC Knoxville (TN) who recently teamed up to present a spectacular reminder of God's uncon-

Conference in Motion!

Striving for perfection in Conference music.

Rev. Judy Davenport found convenient motion assistance. Is that an electric dolphin?

ditional love through the musical, "We Are One!"

Thanks to the hard work of more than 300 volunteers from MCC of the Resurrection, and the dynamic leadership of the Rev. Dwayne Johnson, senior pastor of MCC-R, 2100 persons filled the majestic Houston Music Hall for this unique and moving event. Many of those attending commented on the number of children and families in attendance. Congratulations to all involved for this successful outreach to the community.

Tips for Better Printed Material

Rev. Justin Tannis

Looking for ways to make your brochures, flyers and bulletins a little more exciting? Check out pre-printed specialty papers that have a color design already printed on the page. You just



■ Left, Frank Zerilli and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson taking a break from business meetings.

print or copy your text onto the paper. You can find pre-printed paper at stationery and office supply stores or order one of these catalogs:

Paper Direct, 1-800-A-PAPERS: Many colorful and professional styles of paper for everything from flyers, brochures, business cards, name tags, newsletters and folders. Paper Direct also sells software to help with lay-out of quality looking pieces.

Baudville Desktop Publishing Solutions, 1-800-728-0888 or www.baudville.com. Baudville offers contemporary images, including some motivational images. In addition to flyers, awards and brochures, they offer bifold designer papers, for traditional style bulletins and ASpeedy Bulletin@software.

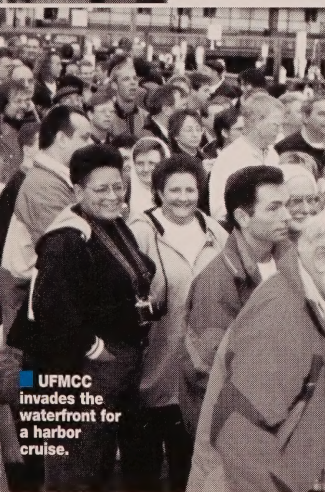
Ramco Paper Supplies, 1-800-522-6922 offers specialty papers in banner lengths and papers that allow you to create heat-transfer t-shirts.

NEBS small business resources, <http://nebswww.nebs.com/nebs>, International Offices, 011-44-1244-390-222

Esselte papers, <http://www.esselte.com> (Australia +61-(0)2-616 70 99, Denmark +45-38-16 78 00, France +33-(0)1-44 85 17 00, Germany +49-(0)511-95 950, the UK +44-(0)1954-78 04 36)

The Marriage Battle Has Just Begun: Now Is Our Time To Act

Our founder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry and the Elders of our Fellowship have made it clear. The same-gender marriage issue is a justice issue about which we dare not remain silent, inactive, and on the sidelines. It is



■ UFMCC invades the waterfront for a harbor cruise.



■ Native Aboriginals dance was a highlight at Sydney.

time again for UFMCC congregations to speak and act with courage and with creativity.

The following compilation of resources from the National Freedom to Marry Coalition is intended to help every UFMCC congregation to develop your own strategy to help win justice for God's lesbian and gay children. The religious and political extremists are committing huge resources in their campaign to deny us our rights to marriage. We must redouble our efforts to win those rights and protections and to enlist gay and non-gay support for our freedom to marry.



JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

The National Freedom to Marry Coalition includes every national lesbian and gay rights organization including our Universal Fellowship, numerous non-gay allies, and state and local partners in every state --- all working together to secure the freedom to marry free of sex discrimination.

I invite you and your congregation to join the Coalition in the tasks before us: (1) beating back the radical right anti-marriage backlash bills in state legislatures across the country; (2) defeating anti-marriage ballot measures in Hawaii and elsewhere; and (3) in every community, affirmatively enlisting non-gay supporters and reaching out to the non-gay persuadable public, engaging people in dialogue about our freedom to marry, inviting support for the Marriage Resolution, and shaping the climate of receptivity for the couples soon to be legally married.

Here is a vast array of resources, available (mostly free) from Coalition members, or from Lambda's Marriage Project (the Coalition clearinghouse). Please get what you need (contact information follows for each group). We strongly urge

people to use September, October, November, and December as a time to hold forums, engage in dialogue, shape media, make contacts with reachable non-gay political supporters, and ask for discussion and support of the Marriage Resolution. This is a precious window of opportunity. These resources are available for you to use in creating and fulfilling your local action plan.

The following materials are available through Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Marriage Project, 120



■ Dr. Chung leads women in "Eco-Feminist Tai Chi."

A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

London, Ontario, Canada in August. Congratulations! ■ The 1997 Austin Out'n Open Golf Tournament will take place in Austin, Texas the weekend of October 10-12, 1997. For information contact Linda Pierson (512) 708-0536 or Fax (512) 708- 8992.

PRAYERS

Please keep the family and friends of **Rev. Linda Laster**, pastor of Emmanuel MCC in Spokane, Washington in prayer as Linda passed away on July 29. Please uphold her partner, Marge Johnson, with your love and prayers. ■ Please keep the family and friends of **Rev. Ken Taylor**, one of the early pastors of MCC London, in your prayers as Ken passed away in Manchester, England in July. ■ **Rev. Edward Knisley**, pastor of Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage, Alaska, has moved to New York to study at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. Prayers for him and the Alaska congregation he is leaving. ■ Prayers for friends and family of **Anthony Crayton**, long-time member and friend of Vieux Carre' MCC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who passed away on July 12th due to complications with HIV. ■ Prayers for the **Rev. Lee Carlton**, who's mother recently passed away after a battle with cancer.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

■ Sept. 18-21 **MCC Toronto Church Growth Conference and Eastern Canadian District Conference** - Toronto, Ontario

■ Sept. 20-21 **Excel International All Team Gathering**, Jacksonville, Florida

■ Oct. 15-20 **Board of Elders, General Council Meeting**, Los Angeles, CA

■ Oct. 24-26 **Excel of the Armadillo**, Dickinson, Texas

■ Nov. 7 **Church Growth Mini-Conference**, West Hollywood, CA Theme: "Front Door, Back Door, Side Door." Six one-hour sessions facilitated by the Rev. Elder Don Eastman and James Birkitt, UFMCC Director of Communications

■ Nov. 7-9 **Southwest District Conference**, West Hollywood, CA Theme: "A Glorious Witness." Call the district office at (805) 483-5424 for information.

Gay Theological Journal

Homosexual Hermeneutics on Religion and the Scriptures

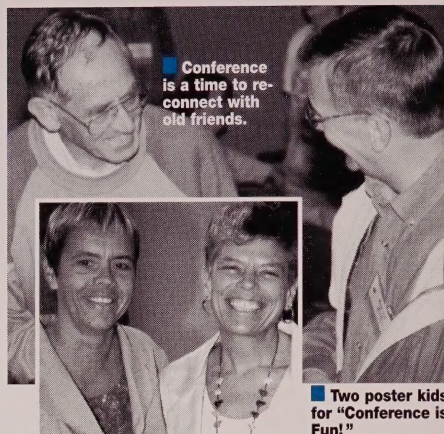
Covers the entire spectrum of spiritual issues confronting Gays and Lesbians. Along with insightful features, the Journal includes commentary, religious news, resources, reviews and listings of inclusive, affirming congregations. Subscriptions are \$20/year (individuals) and \$30/year (institutions).

To subscribe, contact the Journal at P. O. Box 1129, Manassas, VA 20110. Call toll-free for Visa and MasterCard orders: 1-800-215-1881

Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10011, 212-809-8585 (voice), 212-809-0055 (fax), or lldemarry@aol.com. Many of Lambda Legal's materials are available through their website: <http://www.freedom-tomarry.org>.

Materials Available Include: 1. **Marriage Information Packets** - Information on the marriage fight and tools for discussing the issue of marriage with others. Packets also address the perspectives of religious communities and people of color. (Also in Spanish.) 2. **Freedom to Marry Brochure** - The Marriage Resolution, basic Questions & Answers, and talking points. Circulate as widely as possible. 3. **Resolution and Signatories** - List of national and local organizations, religious leaders, and congregations signing on to the Marriage Resolution. 4. **Interracial Marriage/History** - Including summary of the parallels between the anti-marriage laws aimed at same-sex couples, and the prohibitions against interracial marriage from a generation ago; *You Must Come Out to Fight for Marriage and More*, by Lambda attorney Kim Kirkley, urges people to view marriage in the larger context of an ongoing civil rights struggle that includes Brown v. Board of Education and Loving v. Virginia.

5. **Bibliography** - list of articles (legal and popular) in the areas of marriage, national recognition of marriages performed in Hawaii, recognition of same-sex couples in other countries. 6. **Articles** - including various press clippings; "Conservative Case" articles - selected clippings putting forth the "conservative case" for equal marriage rights. 7. **Press Kit** - contains general legal, historical and social backgrounders on the freedom to marry for same-sex couples, as well as press clippings. Photographs are also available, upon request.



Two poster kids for "Conference is Fun!"

Global Outreach Participants Respond to Conference

Maria Luisa Barrientos Cui (MaLu) Lay Delegate of MCC Manila, in the Philippines, writes: "In the conference I really learned a lot. From all the workshops I attended and from the different kinds of worship. For me, this is the greatest achievement in life and a giant step for our congregation to grow and to develop. I am excited to go home to my homeland and to my church, MCC Manila, to share with them what I have learned from conference. My vision for MCC Manila is that it will last forever. MCC Manila really changes me a lot. Not only my mind but also, spiritually. It really changes my life. We are thanking you for all your prayers and support to us. Bless your spirits and hearts! And thank you so much, God, for giving us the MCC, our founder Rev. Troy Perry, for his undying goodness to us. We love you so much! I love you and thank you so much."

Andrew Hills, Lay Delegate of The Reforming Church MCC, Pretoria, South Africa writes: "In a total state of awe, I would like to share with you some of my impressions of the conference. I came to Sydney about 3 weeks ago, not quite knowing what to expect. Within a day I found myself in the midst of God's people when I attended the anniversary dinner of MCC Sydney. It really felt like being at home. While talking to what should have been total strangers, I had an intense experience of being in the spiritual home of our own congregation. The constant current of God's grace moves without fail from one person to another. What a joy to be a part of that constantly moving beam of light! The authentic experience of God's caring love and the inspirational force of the Spirit exercised my wings for a spiritual flight that wasn't possible, even in my wildest dreams."



Rev. Judy Dahl, Global Outreach

Planning New Ministries This Fall?

Don't forget the Kids!



Building a Great Children's Ministry
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Quick Children's Sermons: Will My Dog Be in Heaven?
BP9703
\$10.00



Boredom Busting Ideas to Involve Children in Adult Worship
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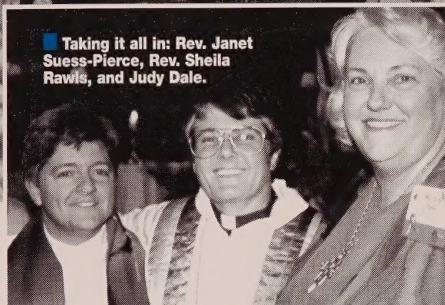
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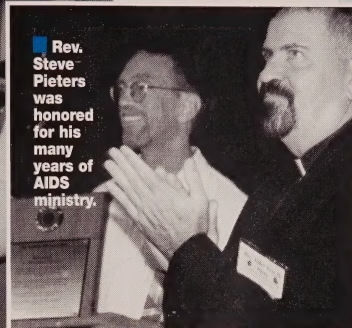
Conference of *People*



■ **Taking it all in:** Rev. Janet Suess-Pierce, Rev. Sheila Rawls, and Judy Dale.



■ **Inset:** Conference Organizer Nathan Meckley, left, and Director of Administration Ravi Verma.



■ **Rev. Steve Pieters** was honored for his many years of AIDS ministry.

■ **Resource Center** became a busy meeting place in Sydney.

Hi, my name is Tess Smith. I'm a lesbian and proud. My heart was captured by that one article I have read in "Keeping In Touch," July edition. It's about the gay and lesbian Pride Parade in the Philippines. I was just really shocked and couldn't believe what I was reading about MCC Manila. I was born and raised in the Philippines. I spent 19 long years of my life there, and I never knew the gay and lesbian community existed. I want to congratulate my strong and proud Filipinos for doing such a great job, "I'm very proud of you..." From now on I will always put MCC Manila in my prayers, and all the MCC's around the world. I hope the next time you have a gay and lesbian Pride Parade, my partner Julie and I will be there to show the world that we're gay, we're proud and we're happy.

HIV/AIDS Issues at Conference

General Conference XVIII offered a number of opportunities to deal with HIV/AIDS issues. A daily lunchtime support group, workshops, a rest area, and informal networking and support work took place during the Conference, with our Australian hosts providing a great deal of help and support to all of us living with HIV/AIDS.

About forty people attended "Is AIDS A Dead Issue? UFMCC's Response...What's Next?" Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson led an open discussion on AIDS ministry on a local and denominational level. She invited participants to share what they wanted the Elders to hear. There was general agreement that while AIDS ministries are confronting changing needs, it is still vitally important to care for those who cannot benefit from new treatments, as well as to confront justice issues. A number of people expressed a strong need for AIDS ministry on the

denominational level. Quite a few demonstrated hunger for models of HIV/AIDS ministry on the local level. A number of books on the subject were available at the Resource Table.

Over 30 men attended "Men Talking Sex," a workshop to facilitate HIV prevention. I introduced a new four-week prevention program for gay men in local churches. Workshop participants had fun "voting with their bodies" on many different statements about their sexual behaviors, preferences, and HIV status. The exercise proved to be a great springboard for discussion of many issues related to gay male sexuality and HIV prevention.

The daily support groups, co-facilitated by Deacon Tad Lincoln of Miami, FL and me, provided opportunity for a number of people to share frustrations, challenges, and hopes. Each day at lunchtime, the group focused on one of the steps in the UFMCC pamphlet, "So You're Going to Live: Facing Life after Facing Death." In addition to persons living with HIV, there were a number of senior lesbians and gays present dealing with health challenges of aging.

Mr. Chris Puplick spoke on "Compassion as Public Policy" at the AIDS Plenary on Thursday. Mr. Puplick is President of the Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales; Chair of the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases; and Chair of the AIDS Trust of Australia.

Also at the plenary, Rev. Elder Troy Perry graciously presented me with a plaque in recognition of my ten years of service as Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry. I will be leaving my position December 31, 1997.

After a few days off, I went to MCC Melbourne to preach and teach. This church boasts a solid core group of persons living with HIV who have been doing "Spiritual Strength for Survival Support Groups" for several years. In one workshop, we discussed starting a new support group based on "So You're Going to Live." The people of MCC Melbourne were extraordinarily generous in their hospitality, and I will long remember all the fun I had!

Classified

MCC of Greater Tulsa is seeking a vibrant, spirit-filled pastor to guide our church into the future. We are a commissioned church that has much to offer: a 23-year old UFMCC congregation, a building that is completely paid for, and an administrative body that has no outstanding debts or tithes! We offer a part-time pastorate with benefits negotiable for UFMCC credentialed clergy. We are also prepared to help with moving expenses. The past two years without a pastor have taught us to trust God more than ever. We have become a healthy church that is now ready for growth. Here is a great source of untapped potential waiting for just the right pastor. Are you the one? Interested clergy should submit a resume and recent preaching video by Oct. 1, 1997. Send to Pastoral Search, P. O. Box 581702, Tulsa, OK 74158-1702.

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54+ member Chartered Church seeks Senior Pastor of faith. We own our sanctuary; have active children's ministry. Seek vibrant leader to take us into the next millennium. Contact MCC Amarillo at (806) 372-4557, or send e-mail to DK591@aol.com.

Classified ad rate: \$15 for first 20 words, 75 cents for each additional word. Advertising Deadline: The 15th of the month prior to publication.

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping In Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmcchq@aol.com Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

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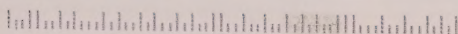


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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - JULY 1997

1: MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	3,900.55
2: MCC Washington, Washington, DC	2,752.01
3: King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	2,209.61
4: MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	1,439.09
5: First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	1,396.48
6: MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	1,384.50
7: Joy MCC, Orlando, Florida	1,365.16
8: MCC New York, New York City, NY	1,187.46
9: Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	1,172.52
10: Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	1,146.19
11: St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC	1,130.90
12: Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA	919.01
13: MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	917.57
14: MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA	876.59
15: River City MCC, Sacramento, CA	825.91
16: Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX	768.65
17: MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	756.75
18: Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA	744.80
19: MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA	708.31
20: MCC Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX	681.60

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - JULY 1997

1: MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	45.68
2: Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA	43.56
3: Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA	42.10
4: MCC of Grater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	38.59
5: Eternal Light MCC, Lacey, WA	35.73
6: Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	35.29
7: Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY	34.16
8: Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	32.10
9: Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	31.75
10: MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO	30.13
11: MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA	29.08
12: Divine Peace MCC, Hazel Park, MI	28.78
13: Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	27.85
14: Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, IL	27.73
15: Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN	26.57
16: Morning Star MCC, Cherry Valley, MA	26.33
17: New Hope! MCC, Santa Rosa, CA	25.93
18: MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	24.90
19: MCC New Haven, New Haven CT	24.79
20: MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	24.78

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

July
August
1997

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

Technology Shines at Australia General Conference

**"Virtual" General Conference...
Next best thing to being there!**

Can't get to Australia this year? Well, we've got you "covered"! UFMCC will use the latest information technology to bring you all the news and excitement of General Conference in Australia.

Local churches and online MCC'ers around the world are encouraged to host "Virtual General



**UP
FRONT**
Rev. David Farrell,
Capital Campaign

Conference" parties to bring the conference home to all those unable to make the trip. By accessing the Internet during the conference, you'll be able to

follow daily events, activities and elders election news, and participate in six live online chats at PlanetOut via America On Line, and on the worldwide web. You'll also be able to hear the Rev. Elder Perry's Opening Address, recorded live in Sydney and archived on the UFMCC World Center website.

Beginning July 1st, UFMCC will be featuring an entire special section devoted to "Virtual General Conference" on our popular World Center website at (<http://www.ufmcc.com>) which will include:

- a complete guide and time schedule for all our "online" activities
- directions and live links to Chats and activities on other sites
- regular posting of the General Conference publication *The Daily News*
- regular postings to a special "Conference Photo Gallery"
- archive of online Conference materials and activities
- directions and live links for any necessary (and free) "plug-in" access tools, such as a RealAudio player to hear Rev. Perry's Opening Address.

As your schedule permits, we

encourage you to try these out prior to joining the various Conference "chats" or other activities.

All this, (and more!) will be available to delegates and attendees on-site in Sydney for this historic General Conference and, for the very first time, to UFMCC cyber-travelers everywhere in the world! So, be sure to join us!

Chatting "Live" from Sydney!

By Mark Hahn

An important part of our first General Conference experience outside North America will be sharing it with "the folks back home." To make that easier and more enjoyable for all concerned, we will be offering six live chat sessions from Sydney. The chats will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday and carried on both America On Line (AOL) and Internet Relay Chat (also known as IRC). Depending upon the type of online access you have, you may be joining us for either AOL or IRC. Please note that the AOL resources are quite limited; if you are able to use IRC, this is the recommended way to go.

If you are using AOL:

- In the USA: Monday 6:00 PM (PST) 11:00 AM Tuesday (SYDNEY time) Topic: Moderator's Opening Address.
- In the USA: Wednesday 6:00 PM (PST) 11:00 AM Thursday (SYDNEY time) Topic: Elders Elections.
- In the USA: Friday 6:00 PM (PST) 11:00 AM

Virtual General Conference

Rev. Perry's Opening Address on UFMCC Website

When Rev. Perry delivers his "Opening Address" at General Conference in Sydney, it will be 3:00AM (!) in the USA. Accordingly, the Opening Session will be recorded live in Sydney and made available through our World Center website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>.

Opening ceremonies will be held at historic Sydney Town Hall, one of the city's busiest attractions. Once the session is archived on the website, it will be possible for you to listen to it at any time that is convenient for you, wherever you are in the world! Check in at the Virtual General Conference area on the website to see when the session is available. Rev. Perry's Opening Address is always one of the highlights of any General Conference. You won't want to miss it!



SATURDAY (SYDNEY time) Topic:
Conference Wrap-Up.

On the AOL menu bar, select "Go To," enter the keyword "PlanetOut," select Chat, then Topic Chat. In the left-hand list, look for the UFMCC Chat Room, and click here to enter. Please note that the room capacity is 43 persons. If you receive a message saying, "The room you requested is full, would you like a room like it?" it is important to reply NO. Then, try again later to get into the hosted room.

The protocol to follow will be: if you have a question, type ? If you have a statement type ! The host will call on you, in turn, for your question or statement. When you are done, type GA (for Go Ahead) to signal you are done.

Standard AOL rules will apply: no abusive language, no attacking of persons, no disruptions will be tolerated. For those who don't make it into the room, you will be able to download the chat transcript from the UFMCC web page.

On Internet Relay Chat, iChat or other: (same suggested topics as above) reached via <http://www.planetout.com> (select chat) or using

Internet Relay Chat program (e.g. mIRC) connect to: chat.planetout.com

- In USA: Monday 7:30 PM (PST) 12:30 PM TUESDAY (SYDNEY)
- In USA: Wednesday 7:30 PM (PST) 12:30 PM THURSDAY (SYDNEY)
- In USA: Friday 8:00 PM (PST) 1:00 PM SATURDAY (SYDNEY)

The conference protocols will be the same as for AOL users.

If you are unable to find the room (#UFMCCOZ), or the channel is not available, contact MCCTigger@aol.com or TiggerToo@aol.com by e-mail for assistance, using the IRC paging tools.

For those of you on the web and not yet on Internet Relay Chat, you can learn more, and download shareware software at: <http://www.geocities.com/~mirc/>. Another place for info is: http://www.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/Chat/IRC/FAQs/

We will be posting the transcripts of the chat sessions in the "Virtual General Conference" section of the UFMCC World Center website. So have fun, join us live if you can, or visit <http://www.ufmcc.com> often for updates and information. We're looking forward to "chatting" with you from Sydney!

plus \$3.95 for postage and handling. Mail your order and check for \$14.90 to UFMCC Resource Center, 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069, or call (310) 360-8640, Ext. 221 for credit card orders.

Gay Christians Share Pride in Manila

The Metropolitan Community Church in Manila, Philippines, issued an invitation to all sexual minorities belonging to the Christian faith to join its delegation to the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade which was held in June,



Rev. Judy Dahl,
Global Outreach

the third one to be held in the Philippines. MCC Manila gained prominence when it co-sponsored the first Pride March in June, 1994 with the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines.

Acting MCC Manila Pastor Rev. Edward Paul said that the church has for five years kept its vigil as one of the few resources Filipino sexual minorities can count on for them to lead healthy and productive lives.

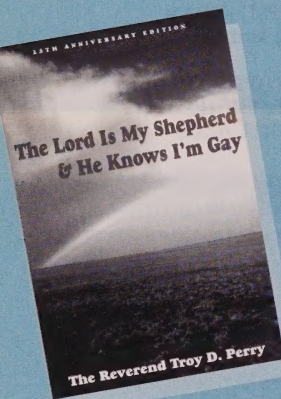
"The UFMCC is very proud that Filipino gays and lesbians have made the Pride Parade a yearly observance," Rev. Paul said. "We will keep on going through the next millennium proclaiming Christ's redeeming grace and God's love for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or HIV status."

New Home for Spirit of Life

A dedication ceremony will be celebrated on Aug. 2 for the new \$300,000 home of Spirit of Life MCC. Construction of the 3,300 square-foot building is scheduled for completion in July. The building is the first of two planned by Spirit of Life on 2.8 acres near New Port Richey, FL.

Spirit of Life has grown to 118 members, with a record high attendance this Easter of 161. Erecting a "Monument to Vision," Spirit of Life sold one-inch mosaic tiles in 1995 for \$1 each and used them for a mural that is 8' by 12'. The mural includes about 10,000 tiles. The project raised more than \$20,000, the down payment on property.

Spirit of Life MCC held a ground-breaking ceremony on Dec. 29 after a successful \$250,000 bond program. The mosaic, framed in native Cypress, will be moved to the new building. Seven stained-glass pieces are being created for the sanctuary. They include a



**It's a classic!
And it's available
once again!**

The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay

**by Rev. Elder
Troy D. Perry**

The story of the founding of MCC. This book belongs in every MCC'er's personal library.

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Please call 310/360-8640, Ext. 221 for credit card orders.

Mail to: UFMCC Resource Center, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., Second Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Classic Perry Book Reprinted; Now Available!

A seminal book on gay spirituality which has become a publishing classic has been reprinted and is again available through the UFMCC Resource Center.

Troy Perry's book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd, And He Knows I'm Gay*, has just received its fifth printing in time for our historic, international General Conference XVIII in Sydney, Australia.

First printed in 1972, the book details Perry's journey as an openly gay Christian, and recounts the founding of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. This is a classic which belongs in every MCC'er's personal library, and which makes a great gift for friends, family and those exploring the integration of spirituality and sexuality.

The new edition sells for \$10.95,

cross with a radiating rainbow of colors for the chancel and six smaller windows, each highlighting a color of the rainbow and depicting themes from Spirit of Life's mission statement.

Out In The Bush: Australian Documentary Reviewed

"I'm not different, I'm not abnormal. All I am is gay"

This was one young gay man's response during a documentary, *Out in the Bush*, which premiered in Australia on SBS Television on June 3, 1997. Rev. Greg Smith, Pastor of MCC Sydney and the Australian District Coordinator, participated in the documentary which looks at the link between rural youth suicide in Australia and homosexuality. In the last thirty years the incidence of youth suicide among rural teenage girls and young women has increased by 500%, and has increased 1200% in young men. One of the major factors in the increase is the little acknowledged fact that many of the victims are unable to cope with their emerging sexuality.

Out in the Bush hears from several young men and a lesbian who have suffered abuse and isolation and being pushed to the brink. Rev. Greg Smith is interviewed along with educators, activists and academics who are concerned that young men and women in rural areas are not getting the support they need and deserve.

The film highlights the link between attitudes toward homosexuality and youth suicide, particularly in rural Australia. Rev. Smith challenges the Government and the Education Departments to address the issue of homophobia within their schools, noting that they have a moral responsibility to be aware of the insidious nature of homophobia, to provide a safe environment for these young people and to be instrumental in affecting community change.

MCC Kids On-Line

Our MCC children and their teachers now have their own page "on-line". The address is: [HTTP://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1490/mcc-kids.html](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1490/mcc-kids.html). MCC KIDS ON-LINE has been



■ MCC Manila extended an invitation to all minorities to join their marching unit the the third Manila Pride March in June

developed to teach children about God's love while enjoying games, puzzles and other activities. MCC KIDS ON-LINE also provides resources for teachers to use in educating children. This webpage will continually be updated with new and helpful information. You're invited to visit this site, download resources for your congregation and share your comments and suggestions "on-line."

MCC Louisville Purchases New Facility

Congratulations to Metropolitan Community Church of Louisville, which has voted to purchase a former Lutheran church building at 1432 Highland Avenue in Louisville as its new church worship center.

The 104-year-old structure is located in the heart of Louisville's LBGT community. Its 9000 sq. ft. include a sanctuary, a fellowship hall with a full kitchen and steam table, an auditorium with a stage, and office and classroom space. The Allen organ, the altar with a bas-relief of Leonardo DaVinci's The Last Supper, the hand-carved pulpit and baptismal font, pews, and other accouterments remain with the building.

A Fellowship of Activity

Congratulations to Pax Christi MCC, Southampton, England on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary. ■ **MCC Knoxville, TN**, has received a \$25,000 Faith in Action grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ, to establish POSITIVELY LIVING, a day activity program for persons living with catastrophic illnesses. ■ **Excel** states that the Ohio Suitcase Weekend sponsored by Excel of the Lakes was wonderful, as was Excel in the Shadow of the Most High! Also, Three Corners say they had a blessed weekend, too! ■ **MCC in Appleton, WI**, was given a two manual organ with full foot key board by First United Methodist Church of Gillette - God just keeps on blessing this church. ■ **Church of Our Savior MCC**, Boca Raton, FL, has closed on its new facility. The church now begins renovating the building for its first service July 19th. A formal dedication service, officiated by Rev. Judy Davenport, District Coordinator, is planned for the first Sunday in August. ■ The Rev. Joan Saniuk, of Ventura, CA, has accepted the call to pastor **MCC Boston, MA**. Rev. Saniuk begins her ministry in Boston in late September. ■ **Kathy Munn of Agape MCC**, Ft. Worth, TX, received the Laity Award by the SCD DCOL Steering Committee for her dedicated service. ■ Great Lakes District Conference gave Church Growth Awards for Commissioned and Chartered Churches for the 1996 calendar year to **Milwaukee MCC, WI** (119% increase in membership), **Redeemer MCC**, Flint, MI (89%), and **Jesus MCC**, Indianapolis, IN (28%). Recognition also went to two churches which were Missions in 1996: **Angels of Hope MCC, WI** (93%) and **Lexington's MCC, KY** (90%). ■ **Global Outreach** of UFMCC now has their own website. Visit it at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/2575>. For more info about Global Outreach, email Rev. Judy Dahl at Jdahl2GO@aol.com. ■ Rev. Mark G. Bidwell has been called as Pastor of **MCC Detroit** by a 100% vote of the membership at the spring congregational meeting. ■ Congratulations to Carlee, daughter of Rev. Anne Hulse, **Song of Messiah MCC, WA**, who gave birth to a baby girl, 7 lbs. 4 oz.; Mom and baby are doing great. ■ Thanks for your expressions of love and prayer for Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry. Troy had gallbladder surgery on June 4. Surgery and recuperation went well; Troy returned to a full schedule less than two weeks after surgery. ■ Rev. Marilyn Marr was elected Senior Pastor of **Holy Cross MCC**, Pensacola, FL with a 97% vote; she will move from Indiana to Florida in July. ■

Latin Ministry Within the United States

Ramon Flores Pichardo

What is happening with the Latino Ministry within the United States? What are the challenges and blessings that it brings to the Fellowship?

Great things are happening in our Latino Ministry. God is blessing us with gifted and committed people to expand this ministry, and I'd like you to introduce you to some of the people who are making a difference:

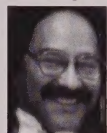
The Rev. Jorge Delgado was ordained in August of this past year. He is a product of MCC Los Angeles Latino Ministry. Rev. Delgado is a teacher, administrator, father, husband, chair to BOM Global Outreach and Pastor of MCC Los Angeles Latino Ministry. We have worked side by side in the Latino Ministry of MCC Los Angeles developing music, leadership, community outreach, and structure in the past year and a half. We have spent many weekends in the past year working on specific cultural events such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Posadas, Tres Reyes, quincianeras, funerales, Cinco de Mayo, 16 de Septiembre, and Dia de los muertos. Many of these materials we hope to put together and make available to others who may need them.

Ana Vargas assists Rev. Delgado in MCC Los Angeles Latino Ministry. She attends the

Claremont School of Theology and has helped in the development and preaching for the bilingual service for MCC Glendale (CA). She provides outreach to Latino women through a study group, Latino women's organizations and bars.

Carlos Sanchez of MCC Sacramento is another leader responding to the call of Latino Ministry. He contacted Rev. Delgado and myself and we began to talk about his dream, and is hoping to start his ministry September of this year.

God has also provided key leadership for the MCC San



**Ramon
Pichardo**



**Rev. Jorge
Delgado**



Ana Vargas

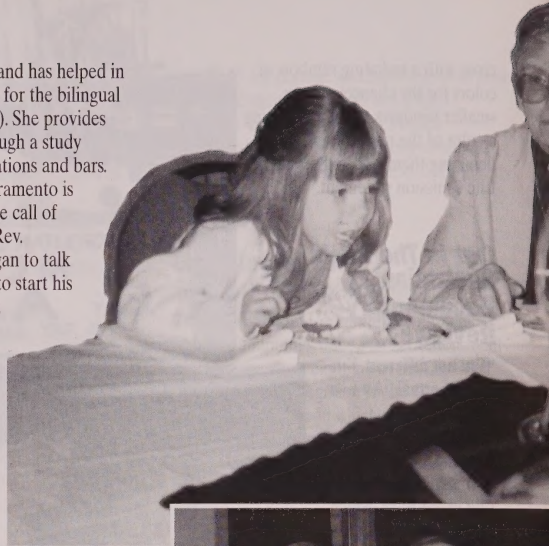
Diego Latino Ministry in the form of Maria Real, Alberto Moreno and myself. We started on March 16, 1997 with a memorial service and now hold worship every Sunday at 5 PM. We have worshippers attending from Tijuana, Mexico and hope to find leadership there to help start an MCC Tijuana. Maria and Al are both student clergy in training at National University.

Julio Flores of New York City is studying at the Theological Seminary of New York. Glory to God! We recently had the opportunity to meet and Julio

shared his dream of establishing an MCC in Queens, NY, with the support of the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, a native of Queens. And no review of UFMCC Latino ministry would be complete without recognizing the Rev. Dana Cagle of MCC Glendale (CA) who also started a monthly bilingual service in her church, with dreams that this might become a weekly ministry.

Finally, I encourage your prayers for our Brother Pablo Navarro and Sister Margarita Sanchez De Leon of ICM Cristo Sanador, San Juan, Puerto Rico. God has blessed us with Pablo and Margarita who are very well prepared for their ministry and with whom we have established a special bond.

UFMCC's Latino Ministry faces many challenges. Many of us do not have computers. We lack the economic resources to establish a central place to develop and maintain materials. We all work in jobs outside of the ministry which take time and energy from our main focus the Latino Ministry. We face strong needs for fundraising to pay for the training of clergy and lay leaders. We feel a need to establish a



department of Latino Ministry. And one of our most pressing needs is to get to know each other and our gifts which we bring to this ministry and for the glory of God!

Latino Ministry is also bringing many blessings to our Fellowship. It provides diversity which brings much color to our ministry. It offers a spirit of united purpose and open communication. Our members bring a clear vision of our ministry. We honor our call to service to God, our people and the Fellowship. It deepens our resources to live within two cultures. Our members bring a great love for God. Together, we are developing a deepened sense of community that is so essential to our cultural and Christian experience. We are developing resources for other congregations to develop bilingual services. And we are learning to incorporate services such as weddings, baptism, novenas, Pasadas, chicaneries and memorials in culturally

Gay Theological Journal

Homosexual Hermeneutics on
Religion and the Scriptures

Covers the entire spectrum of spiritual issues confronting Gays and Lesbians. Along with insightful features, the Journal includes commentary, religious news, resources, reviews and listings of inclusive, affirming congregations. Subscriptions are \$20/year (individuals) and \$30/year (institutions).

To subscribe, contact the Journal at P. O. Box 1129, Manassas, VA 20110. Call toll-free for Visa and MasterCard orders: 1-800-215-1881



■ Diversity was the key word at the recent Mountain and Plains District conference. Diversity was evident in generation, above, and in worship style, below. Left: Acquaintances were renewed in Kansas City.



appropriate ways.

We give thanks to our Moderator, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Elder Larry Rodriguez, the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, the Rev. Tony Freeman, the Rev. Dana Cagle, the Rev. Elder Freda Smith, the Rev. Pat Bumgardner, and all the other pastors and persons who have given their support to the growth of the Latino Ministry within the United States. Thank God they are in our corner! God bless them and keep them!

Brothers and Sisters unite with us! The time is now! Only through the unity of Christ's love can we move on! For more information please call (619) 466-6840 or (619) 280-4333 ext. 513.

Resources for Latino Ministry

The UFMCC Resource Center has added two new titles for churches and leaders exploring Latino ministry. *Dignidad: Ethics Through Hispanic Eyes*

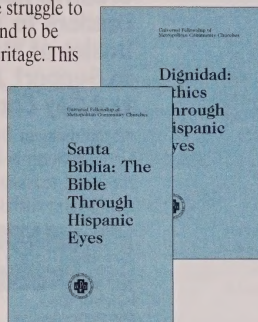


HANDS ON

Helpful Resources for Local congregations

explores the key experiences which contribute to the ethical views of Latinos. These include the experiences of migration, social integration, the struggle to define new identity and to be faithful to cultural heritage. This is an interesting volume which explores the intersection of Hispanic and Anglo cultures. \$15.00

Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes brings the Hispanic/Latino experience to bear on biblical interpretation. \$13.00. For additional ordering information, call the UFMCC Resource Center at (310) 360-8640, Ext. 221.



Mountains and Plains District Conference

Rev. Bob Arthur, District Coordinator

Approximately 117 members of UFMCC congregations in both the USA and Canada registered to attend the second annual Mountains and Plains District Conference over Memorial Day Weekend, in Kansas City, MO. All of our churches had representation at our business meetings with only one exception. MCC of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada was not able to join us for the wonderful and spirit filled event. Three members of our Winnipeg congregation had registered to attend our conference, and due to the flooding in the Winnipeg area they were not able to find safe and affordable transportation to join us. As a faith community a special love offering was taken for the Winnipeg congregation to assist them in this time of turmoil. Please keep this group in your prayers.

"Who Are My Sheep?" was the title of the sermon delivered by Rev. Mark Williams, our own District Clerk. We are the other sheep. All of us on our own faith journeys have at one time or another been the outcast of "mainstream" religious organizations. It is time for us to once again be on the cutting edge of history and allow all to fully participate in the Life Abundant as promised by Jesus the Christ.

This year's conference was filled with a diversity of worship and ministry. We had varied worship

A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

Rev. Gillian Storey has been elected senior pastor of MCC Richmond, VA with 98% of the congregational vote; she began her new ministry on June 1st. ■ Rev. Durrell Watkins has been appointed pastor of MCC With a Vision, Longview, TX where he has been interim pastoral leader for the last six months. The church has more than doubled in membership. ■ Our thanks to those leaders in Australia who have taken on an international social justice cause. The Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, MCC pastor from Nigeria, was refused a visa by the Australian consulate for arbitrary reasons. The Australians have taken up Pastor Maduka's cause through the local press and appeals to government leaders. Please keep this in your prayers. ■ Rev. Ken Martin, MCC Austin, TX, and his spouse, Tom Cole, experienced the tornado that recently went through Texas. The tornado passed within 300 yards of their house; it destroyed buildings around them and overturned a train. ■ MCC New Haven, CT, will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary with special events the weekend of September 17-21. ■ Billy Green of Spirit Song MCC, Little Rock, AR, received the Laity Award from the SCD DCOL Steering Committee for his example of service.

PRAYERS

Please pray for Rev. Neil G. Thomas, Pastor of MCC Bournemouth, England, who sadly lost both his grandparents the end of May. ■ Please remember Rev. Reid Christensen, former pastor of MCC Atlanta, GA, in your prayers. He is now receiving hospice care, and his health is rapidly declining. ■ Keep the family and friends of Marlene Davis, long term member of Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX, in your prayers as she passed away May 16 following a long battle with cancer. Her partner of 16 years, Sylvia Hodgins, is a member of the South Central District Committee. ■ Mr. David Minnerman, a member of the Mid-Atlantic District Committee, had a fire in his home recently. He was able to save his cat, computer and a file cabinet which contained church records, everything else was destroyed. David was not hurt, but starting over is difficult. ■ Friends of Pax Christi MCC, Southampton, England, who live in Leicester, England would like your prayers as they plan for a new MCC to start there. ■ Prayers are requested for ICM Mexico City where the church was vandalized. Someone spray painted all the vestments of the clergy, vandalized the sanctuary and stole their computer. ■ Rev. Jeffrey Jordan, Interim Pastoral Leader of

Continued

CLASSIFIED

Lead Us Into The 21st Century! Seeking Spirit-filled pastor interested in a long-term commitment to our spiritually-diverse church. Situated in one of the most beautiful locations in America, we are offering a pastorate part-time with benefits. Self-motivated, credentialed clergy should request pastoral search application packet by August 31, 1997. Write Pastoral Search Team, MCC of the Blue Ridge, P.O. Box 20495, Roanoke, VA 24018 - or request packet by e-mail at KHGFILL@roanoke.vdh.state.va.us.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR POSITION

AVAILABLE: The Southwest District UFMCC seeks a person with successful pastoral and administrative skills, a minimum of three (3) years experience in UFMCC, and at least three (3) years experience in successful organizational leadership for the position of District Coordinator. Position will begin January 1, 1998 for a four year term and will be filled by election at District Conference in November 1997. The current District Coordinator is expected to stand for re-election. Applications will be sent upon request from Ms. Theresa Swanigan, Nominations Chairperson, 2851 San Francisco Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90806; (562) 427-2287. Note: All applications must include a recent full criminal and credit background check from an approved agency, obtained at the applicant's expense, and sent separately to the Chairperson, Southwest District BOM. Applications and background checks must be received no later than September 1, 1997.

First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta invites application for the full-time position of Senior Pastor. First MCC is the largest of three MCC Churches in Atlanta, which is home to over 200,000 gay, lesbian and transgendered persons. Interested UFMCC clergy should submit a resume, a videotape of a recent sermon presentation, and three letters of reference to: Pastoral Search Committee, First MCC Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road, Atlanta, GA 30329. Applications will be accepted through August 15, 1997. All applications will be held in strictest confidence.

ELLEN FANS! Win autographed copy of original script 4/30 episode. Raffle. Tickets \$1 each; 7 for \$5, 15 for \$10. Mail checks and S.A.S.E. to MCC in the Country, 3901 Manzanita Dr., Box C, San Diego, CA 92105-4503. Drawing 7/27.

SAVE UP TO 80% on dental, vision & prescriptions. Community friendly. \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949.

BROKERS NEEDED: Full, part time. Excellent commissions and training. Own your business and help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information.

Metropolitan Community Church of Amarillo, Texas, chartered in 1987 seeks full time senior pastor. City of approximately 190,000 people, offers many educational opportunities. MCCA owns its own building, has over 50 members and employs a pastor on staff. Seeking ordained pastor of faith skilled in healing process, outgoing, committed to diversity and youth ministries with knowledge of church administration. MCCA P.O. Box 1276 Amarillo, TX 79105-1276 or call (806) 372-4557. Chartered church of 54 members seeks pastor of faith. We own our sanctuary; have active children's ministry, active adult ministry. Seeking vibrant leader to take us into the next millennium. Contact MCC Amarillo (TX) (806) 372-4557, or e-mail to DK591@aol.com.

services including Pentecostal, Liturgical, Taizé, and Native American/First Nation. And what a variety of conference preachers: the Rev. Gina Hartung, the Rev. Elder Hong Tan, and the Rev. Bob Arthur. All of the participants of this conference were fed and challenged with words of encouragement and challenge, brought forth by our presenters.

Creative Response by UFMCC Leaders To The Growing Desire of Mainstream Clergy to Support Justice for Lesbian and Gay Christians

At this moment, thousands of Protestant and Catholic clergy in North America and around the world, feel angry and frustrated about the anti-homosexual decisions being made by their



Rev. Mel White
Minister of Justice

JUSTICE

denominational leadership. It is safe to assume that there are mainline clergy (liberal and conservative) in

your town who are tired of this tragic, silly, endless debate and who are ready to take their individual stand. Here's another way for our UFMCC clergy and laity to be ministers of justice and reconciliation in their home towns.

A Case Study in Madison, Wisconsin

In last month's *Keeping in Touch*, I mentioned the "Madison Miracle." In April, 1997, Gary and I held a citywide, interfaith 'Soul Force' workshop in Madison. During the Q&A session, a clergyman, concerned about the recent decision by his own (Presbyterian) denomination that denies gay and lesbian candidates the right to be ordained, asked what he could do to help. I invited him and other interested clergy to have breakfast with me the next morning.

To my surprise, thirty-five clergy appeared. A lively discussion followed. It was immediately obvious that these clergy (like others in your town) were in almost total agreement:

- that homosexuality is neither a sickness nor a sin;
- that homosexuals are members in-good-standing of their own local churches;
- that they were willing to put their own careers on the line.

"What Can We Do to Help?"

When these pastors asked what they could do to help, I suggested the following:

1. Gather their own g/l/b/t/ members together to ask them how their local church can minister more effectively to their own unique needs.

Future of the Fellowship

Newly Ordained Clergy in UFMCC

Congratulations to the following persons who have been ordained as clergy in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Australian District

Rev. Tim Collier

European District

Rev. Amanda McCullough

Great Lakes District

Rev. Reanna Biddle

Rev. Mark Bidwell

Rev. Deb Dysert

Rev. Lillian Ferguson

Rev. Jeff Miner

Rev. Cindy Wright

2. Appoint a 'blue ribbon' committee to make their own church-wide study and make decisions about accepting lesbians and gays into full membership.
3. Make their congregation an official "open and affirming" church. See the addresses that follow for resources for five major denominational "open and affirming" programs.
4. Display resources (books, videos, pamphlets, including our own UFMCC brochures) in their churches to inspire and inform their congregations.
5. Create a Declaration of Solidarity with God's lesbian and gay children.

The Madison Affirmation

For the next four weeks, those same courageous, committed clergy met to create a statement of support for homosexual Christians. They held a press conference to present their Madison Affirmation to the public. Their actions made headlines and its impact is still being felt.

Why don't you consider inviting gay/lesbian friendly clergy to a breakfast in your town. Share the stories of lesbian and gay Christians who are victims of ignorance and bigotry in their home churches. (You might even have one or two 'wounded but articulate souls' present to tell their stories.) Pass out the Madison Affirmation. Ask if those gathered

Gulf Lower Atlantic District

Rev. Dee Crumm
Rev. Robert A. Mullins

Mid-Atlantic District

Rev. Loen Arrington
Rev. Wayne Schwandt
Rev. Cathy Baker
Rev. Belva Boone
Rev. Carol Peterson

Mountains & Plains District

Rev. Matthew Howard

Northwest District

Rev. Hugh Charest
Rev. Colette Jackson
Rev. Christi Ross

South Central District

Rev. Beverly Bennett
Rev. Steven Horelica
Rev. Durrell Watkins

would consider writing an affirmation in your town. Then, leave it in their able hands. You, too, may be happily surprised by what happens next.

There are excellent resources available from these denominational sources:

- Reconciling Congregations (Methodist): 3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60641
- Open & Affirming (UCC): P.O. Box 403, Holden, MA 01520
- Reconciled in Christ (Lutheran): 2466 Sharondale Dr., Atlanta, GA 30305
- More Light Network (Presbyterian): 5525 Timber Lane, Excelsior, MN 55331
- Welcoming & Affirming (Baptist): PO Box 2596, Attleboro Falls, MA 02763

The *Open Hands* magazine is another important source of information for congregations "affirming sexual diversity." Order a copy from *Open Hands*, 3801 N. Keeler Ave, Chicago, Ill 60641. This helpful periodical also lists the almost 1,000 local congregations that are officially 'open and affirming.

Find the mainline churches in your own town who have taken their stand or who are on the verge of taking it. Invite their clergy, your colleagues in local ministry, to meet with you to discuss the possibilities of joining together in a citywide affirmation that will make headlines in your town and bring hope and healing to thousands of lesbian and gay Christians in your community who feel cut-off and condemned by their churches. You may be surprised by the number of mainline clergy who are ready to embrace our cause. The media will have a field day and you will help advance our quest for justice for God's lesbian and gay children another giant step.

UFMCC Announces Solidarity with Presbyterian Gay/Lesbian "Eucharistic Fast"

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest denomination devoted to affirming ministry to gays and lesbians, has extended an invitation for gay and lesbian Presbyterians to receive Holy Communion at any of UFMCC's 300 local congregations.

The invitation was extended by the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, vice-moderator of UFMCC and a long-time ecumenical activist, in response to the recently issued "Call to Eucharistic Fast" by noted Presbyterian author, speaker and activist Chris Glaser. Glaser has proposed the fast to embody protest against Amendment B of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which denies full church participation to gays and lesbians.

"Our Communion Table is open to all God's people," Wilson said. "During this time of Eucharistic Fast, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Presbyterians of conscience may partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at any UFMCC congregation with the full knowledge that our community of faith unreservedly affirms and celebrates their spirituality, conscience, and God-given sexuality."

"I have known Chris Glaser for many years," added Wilson. "I have observed his ministry and his spiritual devotion, and benefitted from his friendship and wise counsel. As I read his 'Call To Eucharistic Fast,' I found myself deeply moved by the plight of our Presbyterian sisters and brothers.

Presbyterians seeking Communion with an MCC congregation may contact UFMCC denominational headquarters by e-mail at UFMCCHQ@aol.com for the location of an MCC congregation.

■ An invitation to share in MCC's tradition of an open communion is being extended to Presbyterians who are participating in the Eucharistic Fast.



A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

MCC Philadelphia, and his family need prayers as his mother passed away on June 13. ■ Prayers requested from the Mountains and Plains District: **Rev. Bob Finch's father** is in pain with an inoperable spine tumor. **Rev. Charlie Arehart's father** continues to decline. **Bonnie Jackson** (Joyce Naughton's partner) recently underwent surgery and is in a slow recovery. **Ivan Loy** (Rev. Mark Lee's partner) is now home after a brief hospitalization for a combination of mononucleosis and viral hepatitis - prays for a speedy recovery. ■ Prayers requested from the Great Lakes District: **Doug Sechman**, Music Director at Jesus MCC in Indianapolis, IN, had his lung collapse and is scheduled for surgery to repair the tears in his left lung. **Brenda Henson**, Camp SisterSpirit in Mississippi, whose mother passed away on June 2nd.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

■ Aug. 8-9 — Mid-Atlantic District Music Conference: "MUSIC 2,000: Dare to Grow Your Music Ministry." Location: MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg, PA. Registration: \$25. Contact Fern at MCC of the Spirit, (717) 236-7387 or Laura Dalton at MCC Richmond, at (804) 353-9477

■ August 16 — Mid-Atlantic District Church Planting Summit. Location: MCC Washington, DC. For more information contact the District Office - at email AJ0Y1@aol.com or call (717) 898-3713.

■ April 16-18, 1998 African-American Leadership Conference, Washington, DC

Keeping In Touch

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069, 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmcchq@aol.com Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

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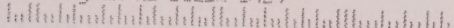
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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - MAY 1997

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$3,880.89
2. MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$2,784.77
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$2,375.87
4. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$2,192.40
5. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	\$1,653.58
6. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$1,512.74
7. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA	\$1,387.77
8. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL	\$1,321.53
9. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$1,293.65
10. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$1,256.22
11. MCC New York, New York, NY	\$1,253.47
12. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC	\$1,187.79
13. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$1,155.58
14. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,024.16
15. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$ 967.57
16. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$ 964.45
17. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA	\$ 933.08
18. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$ 911.04
19. Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ	\$ 850.70
20. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$ 844.65

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - MAY 1997

1. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$50.93
2. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA	\$47.85
3. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	\$46.33
4. Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, AR	\$44.91
5. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$42.26
6. Eternal Light MCC, Lacey, WA	\$37.98
7. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	\$37.48
8. Eglise du Saint Esprit, Lafayette, LA	\$37.04
9. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$36.97
10. MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT	\$33.43
11. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA	\$31.79
12. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	\$29.67
13. MCC Glendale, Glendale, CA	\$29.32
14. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO	\$28.73
15. Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL	\$28.70
16. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA	\$28.41
17. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA	\$28.34
18. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN	\$28.02
19. Free To Be MCC, Belleville, Canada	\$26.59
20. Breaking the Silence MCC, Cocoa, FL	\$26.48

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

June 1997

Universal
Fellowship of
Metropolitan
Community
Churches

THE STATE OF THE FELLOWSHIP: A HISTORY OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH

As we gather for our historic General Conference XVIII in Australia, UFMCC will also celebrate a continuous history of growth. At a time when many Christian denominations are losing 2% of their membership per year, UFMCC membership has grown by more than 6% in each of the last six years.

And since the Rev. Elder Troy Perry issued his call in 1993 to "double in a decade," UFMCC has welcomed

10,000 new members and adherents to our worldwide inclusive membership.

UP FRONT

Rev. Elder Don Eastman
Strategic Growth Initiative

As of May 1, 1997 the UFMCC has grown to 86 Chartered churches, 100 Commissioned churches and 99 New or Special Works for an official total of 285 church bodies in 15 countries.

According to the latest statistics, growth is coming from almost every area of UFMCC ministry. The Cathedral of Hope MCC (Dallas, TX), under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Michael Piazza, has doubled in size since 1993 and this month will pass the 2000 mark in membership.

Pike's Peak MCC (Colorado Springs, CO), an active participant in UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative, has grown by more than 300% since Elder Perry's challenge, from 30 members to more than 100 under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Nori Rost

Much of UFMCC's recent growth is also attributable to our international churches, especially those in South Africa.

In fact, since 1993, 22 MCC congregations have already doubled in membership, and another 30 are on track to double, having already grown by 40% or more.

UFMCC's International inclusive membership (including active members and adherents) has grown to approximately 42,000. Adherents are those who regularly attend an MCC but are not active voting members. In most MCCs, this represents at least half the congregation. Confirmed active voting membership of church bodies in the USA (as reported to the Board of Pensions and/or administrative offices) at the end of

1996 is 17,196. By comparison, with 15,581 members in 1994, this represents a membership growth of 10.37% during the past two years. Membership reported to the administrative offices for districts outside the United States is Eastern Canadian District, 561; European District, 550; Australian District, 191; and, Global Outreach, 2590 (Argentina, 30; Mexico, 150; New Zealand, 75; Nigeria, 1,500; Philippines, 50; Puerto Rico, 35; South Africa, 750).

UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative (SGI) is providing assistance and resources to churches with a vision for growth. The SGI has selected target churches for consultation on strategic planning, leadership development and resources for growth. Each target church is engaged in a three-year process of planning, implementing and evaluating its own visionary growth initiative. An important goal of the SGI process with the first ten target churches is development of models which will be instructive and useful to other Metropolitan Community Churches.

Experience with the first ten target churches reveals that four strategic issues are critical to churches with a vision for growth: 1) Attracting, assimilating and actualizing new members into ministry, 2) achieving or increasing excellence in celebrative worship and music, 3) improving levels of participation in stewardship, including increased financial commitments, and, 4) developing appropriate structures, systems and staffing effective for growth.

We salute visionary women and men across our denomination who's bold vision and commitment to reaching our communities with a message of spiritual hope and affirmation are leading the way for UFMCC to become the "Church for the 21st Century."

■ Growing UFMCC:

Churches who have participated in the Strategic Growth Initiative, such as MCC Tampa, left, are experiencing phenomenal growth. Cathedral of Hope MCC in Dallas, below, is rapidly approaching the 2,000-member milestone.



EXCEL TRAVELS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Jerry Reitz

Excel of the Armadillo, Houston

This past year 1996, there was a dream of Keith Apple, Executive Director of Excel International to take EXCEL to our churches in South Africa. After discussions with the Rev. Andre Muller, Pastor of The Reforming Church MCC, Pretoria, the wheels were set into motion for an Excel weekend. Keith sent word to all teams seeking those interested in coordinating and participating such a weekend. The Excel of the Armadillo team in Houston, Texas, accepted the challenge and Jerry Reitz, with the Armadillo team, volunteered to coordinate the effort of putting together a "suitcase team." After many months of communication and planning, a team was formed. The team was comprised of: Keith Apple, Exec. Director Excel International; Jeff Barnhart, Moderator of the Executive Committee; Richard Beattie, team member of Excel of the Lakes, Detroit, Michigan; Bill Brees, Excel of the Redwoods, San Francisco, Calif.; Rev. Carolyn Mobley, Assoc. Pastor MCCR, Houston, Texas; Janet Roe, Excel of the Armadillo, Houston, TX.; Jim Winslett, Excel of the Armadillo, Houston, TX and Jerry Reitz, team member of Excel of the Armadillo, Houston, TX.

Praise God for telecommunications and e-mail! Through this wonderful media, communications were established with a representative of The Reforming Church MCC, Pretoria, Mr. Andries Jourbert who coordinated the efforts of putting together a weekend in Africa. Not only did Andries provide support for our efforts in Africa but also the Rev. Andre Muller and the Rev. Sue Wellman, pastor of DeoGloria MCC assisted in providing their support and encouragement for members of their respective congregations to attend the first ever Excel weekend in their wonderful country. A special thanks also goes to the Rev. Judy Dahl, UFMCC Global Outreach Ministry

who traveled to Houston, TX in January to provide a workshop for team members on the history of MCC in South Africa and the phenomenal growth that is occurring in that land. Through the efforts and resources provided by members and friends of Excel and MCC of the Resurrection, the team was able to raise \$1,700 for



EXCEL in South Africa: The Excel team from Houston, Texas held a first-ever weekend in South Africa.

expenses necessary to ship team supplies, applications, equipment, posters, etc. to conduct an Excel weekend. This was truly a blessing and an answer to prayer since

the cost for airfare alone to South Africa per person was approximately \$ 1,200.

The first EXCEL Weekend was held March 21-23, 1997 at Elim Kamp, 65 km outside Pretoria. God provided 25 men and women from the two MCC churches in Pretoria to attend this weekend, along with 6 wonderful women from the Reforming Church MCC who comprised our Kitchen Team. So there you have it! 25 participants, 6 wonderful cooks, and 8 team members - worshipping together, praying, studying and acting together at an Excel weekend.

Words cannot express the feelings, emotions, love and gifts of hospitality that were shared with those of us traveling to one of the most beautiful lands on the planet. The people who we encountered at this weekend were gracious beyond words and the feeling of family really does exist within our fellowship. Our team also had the privilege of worshipping with our two con-

gregations in Pretoria Palm Sunday evening. Both congregations were just wonderful! Speaking for the team and myself, we would not have missed this opportunity to experience spiritual cruising' (a term spoken by Andre Muller) for anything this world has to offer. We not only shared the Excel message of "living in Union with God" but were fed ourselves with love and friendships

from some of the most gracious people that we have ever met. I thank God for this opportunity to have served through Excel!

SAMARITAN ANNOUNCES DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

The Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, the professional school of the UFMCC, announced today a formalized dual enrollment program with the Pacific School of Religion



(PSR). This program is the second of its kind in which openly gay and lesbian people who are training for the ministry have access to non-homophobic theological education. The students will have access to the Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies and to an accredited Master of Divinity program through PSR.

This program of cooperation will make it possible for UFMCC students to work simultaneously for a Master of Divinity Degree at the Pacific School of Religion while completing studies required for ordination in the UFMCC. Samaritan, founded in 1970, is the only institution in the world dedicated solely to gay and lesbian theological education. Samaritan is an educational environment promoting religious activism and cultural liberation anchored in spirituality. For additional information, you may contact SIRS by e-mail at SamInst@aol.com.

WORKSHOPS IN SYDNEY INFORM AND INSPIRE

Nathan Meckley

While at General Conference there are more than thirty workshops which will help you develop skills for ministry and provide opportunities to discuss issues critical to UFMCC. In the last issue of *Keeping in Touch*, several were highlighted, and there are even more you'll want to know about!

"Is AIDS a Dead Issue?" Rev. Nancy

REV. MICHAEL MOFFETT

Rev. Michael Moffett of London, England died on April 24, 1997. His mother died two weeks before in Manchester. He went home for the funeral where he fell sick. He was rushed to the hospital where they found several forms of advanced cancer. Rev. Elder Jean White was able to go to Manchester and spend a day with him before he passed over. Please keep all of his friends and family in your prayers.

REV. SHEILA KUHN

Rev. Sheila Kuhn passed away on Monday, May 5th following a two year battle with cancer. She had completed her academics for UFMCC ministry and was serving her internship at Church of the Holy Spirit MCC in Des Moines, IA. Sheila was ordained on April 25th in a bedside ceremony. Originally from Logansport, Indiana, she had lived in Des Moines since 1978. Sheila was 45, an army veteran of Vietnam and Gulf wars. She leaves behind her spouse of eleven years, Barney, and four siblings. It is Sheila and Barney's wish that ordination/memorial gifts may be made to the Mountain and Plains District to establish a student clergy scholarship fund.

Wilson will facilitate an open discussion on AIDS ministry on a local and denominational level. What do you think needs to happen? What do you want the Elders to hear?

Dr. Don Carrington, Director of Urban Discipleship of Paramatta Mission, serving Sydney's Greater West, will lead a panel, "Ministering In Multicultural Australia." Don has lived and worked with indigenous peoples and Islanders of the Pacific for most of his life, and he will facilitate dialogue with a panel of guests speaking from different cultural perspectives. Explore Australia as a diverse multicultural society and consider the ways in which these varying contexts challenge ministry. How does the Australian church respond to ethnic diversity?

"New Insights on Homosexuality and the Bible" will be shared by the Rev. Dr. Mona West, Dean of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies.

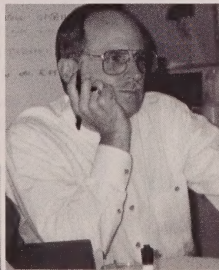
There will be two opportunities (one for registrants only) to consider "Gays/Lesbians: Long-term Survivors of Society's Sexualizing." Dr. Lo Sprague, a Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Certified Psychodrama Practitioner, will help participants look at the gay/lesbian community in the context of "sexualizing" - an environment that collapses all your roles except the sexual.

"Soul Force: International" will be a dramatic review of the current state of injustice in our various nations and how to do justice locally and internationally for UFMCC facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice.

Do you want more people involved in your church? How can you expand avenues to engage lay people into fulfilling ministries? Ms. JoNee Shelton, Chair of UFMCC Commission on the Laity will present "Mentoring Laity Out of the Pew and Into Ministry."

Mr. Jim Birkitt, UFMCC Communications Director, will share proven successful techniques for developing public relations and marketing strategies

■ **Hands-on help:** Past Conference workshops, like one led by Marsha Raulston, right, are opportunities to become better informed in the business of your church. Rev. Mel White, below, will present his "Soul Force" workshop in Sydney.



for the local church in "Guerilla Marketing Strategies: How to Publicize Your Church, Gain Media Attention, and Reach The Unchurched." Come prepared to share your own success stories!

You will not want to miss the special technology workshop on Friday afternoon. From websites to chat rooms, the Rev. David Farrell, Beverly Mitzel, Sparkle Clark and Mark Hahn will present a vision for use of technology in the UFMCC and steps your local church can take toward that vision.

Between business, worship and sightseeing in Sydney, remember that Conference workshops are a place to learn and share to enhance ministry. For a complete workshop listing ask your local church delegates to share the preliminary schedule included in their Conference business packet. Workshop descriptions are included in the on-site program. Verification of workshop attendance will be available to meet the continuing education requirements for UFMCC clergy.

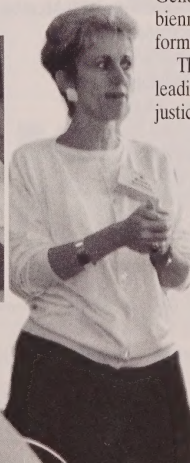
HISTORIC GENERAL CONFERENCE AT HAND IN AUSTRALIA

Excitement over General Conference XVIII to be held in Sydney, Australia continues to grow — literally from around the world! We are amazed at the world-wide attention our upcoming conference is receiving. A group of Japanese gay Christians has contacted UFMCC HQ to learn more about affiliating with UFMCC and has expressed interest in attending the Sydney Conference. A gay Christian from Zimbabwe (site of terrible gay persecution) read about General Conference and has written for information and registration forms, as have Christians from Singapore. Together, we will demonstrate the words of Christ, "You are the light of the world."

Key issues at General Conference XVIII will include adoption of our mission, vision, and core value statements, adoption of our denomination's new ministry priorities, action on proposed by-laws changes, and action on a proposal to transition

General Conference from a biennial event to a triennial format.

The Australians are leading an exciting social justice campaign to obtain a



Rev. Ron Helms of Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY, was recently renamed to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's Religious Leaders Advisory Committee for the 28th U.S. Congressional District. ■ Members of Joie de Vivre MCC in Baton Rouge, LA played a key role in the defeat of a proposed constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriages. Dr. Don Clarke, pastor, spoke before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Tom Merrill, member of the church's Peace and Justice Ministry, led a massive postcard campaign. Their efforts were successful, and the proposed amendment failed by two votes. ■ Angels of Hope MCC of Green Bay, WI, began a parish-extension in Appleton on May 18th. Worship services will be held at 110 So. Locust, just off College Avenue at the 700 block. The worship will be on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM. ■ Renaissance MCC has been approved as a Parish Extension of MCC Washington. It has been formed by a core group of 12 people from what was MCC of the Disciples. ■ Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL, has developed a three year plan "Resurrection 2000" as part of their participation in the UFMCC Strategic Growth Initiative program. ■ Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL has found a new home and the congregation voted overwhelmingly for the acquisition. They plan to make the move in June. ■ MCC San Diego, CA, will install James Bell as their full-time Director of Celebration on June 1st. James was previously the Praise Coordinator at the Sunshine Cathedral MCC in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. ■ Twenty-four years ago on Gay Pride Sunday, the Upstairs Bar in New Orleans burned with dozens of people inside. On Sunday, June 29 at 4:15 PM, Vieux Carre' MCC will hold a memorial service at the corner of Chartres and Iberville, the site of the arson. All are invited to this service. ■ MCC Montgomery has a new name — MCC New Hope — and they have been reporting steady growth and a renewed spirit. ■ MCC Seattle, WA, has completed a move to their new home in the Russian Community

Continued

conference visa for Pastor Maduka of Nigeria. Magazines and newspapers — both in the US and internationally — have carried articles on the upcoming conference. It is our prayer that God will use this conference — and the significant worldwide attention it is receiving — to share our message of spiritual hope and justice, to reach many people with the Good News, and to launch a new wave of growth throughout UFMCC.

DIFFERENCES OF EXPERIENCE

Holy Covenant MCC in Hinsdale, IL recently held a men's workshop in which we discussed spiritual issues for gay and bisexual men, particularly as it relates to our sexuality. Hinsdale is a quiet suburb of Chicago, and the members of Holy

Covenant MCC come from many towns in the suburban and rural areas outside Chicago. It was interesting to compare this workshop with a similar retreat weekend at MCC San Francisco.

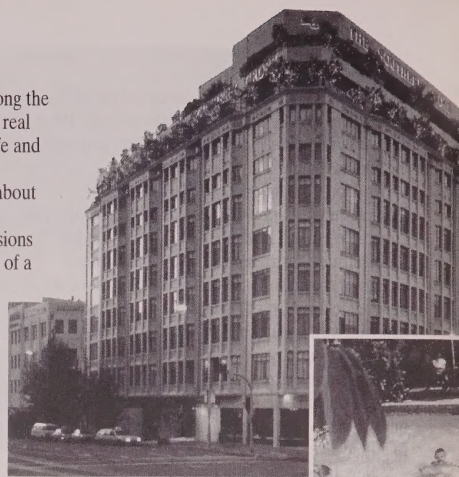
In leading the afternoon session, I used a number of exercises from the men's retreat at MCC San Francisco, led by Eric Rofes and Rev. Jim Mitulski. The two groups were quite a contrast in background. While the men of MCC San Francisco had a fairly diverse experience of being inhabitants of one of the primary gay urban centers, a number (but not all!) of the men of Holy Covenant MCC were more closeted. Some stated they had no desire to be part of an organized or urban gay neighborhood.

There were differences in the experience of

HIV/AIDS in the two groups of men. Among the San Francisco men, many of the men had a real depth of experience both with urban gay life and with AIDS. There was a lot of ease in self-disclosing HIV status and talking in detail about sex and sexuality, perhaps reflecting the abundance of opportunities for such discussions in San Francisco. There was the perception of a real change in living with HIV: no one's life seemed consumed with caring for a sick loved one. It was pointedly noted that there are far fewer funerals and obituaries.

In Hinsdale, there was not the same level of relief or self-disclosure. One member of the community had recently died from HIV's complications, and there are others who are sick and in need. The men of the Hinsdale church seemed much hungrier for a specific discussion of HIV-related issues. There was less self-disclosing, although there were a few who modeled comfort in talking about their HIV status and their sex lives.

More interesting were the similarities between these contrasting groups of gay men. In both groups, there were men who stated, "No one's asked us these questions before." There was an enthusiastic appreciation for the opportunity to talk openly about sexuality. There was a general consensus that the AIDS pandemic may be shifting, but it is not over. There was a genuine consciousness that not everyone is benefitting from protease inhibitors for a variety of reasons, as well as awareness that safe sex and prevention education is still needed among gay men.



Conference digs: The Southern Cross, one of the Sydney hotels which will roll out the red carpet for General Conference guests.

I was most struck with the shared hunger and enthusiasm for men talking with men about these issues, at whatever level the men were willing to talk. To this end, UFMCC AIDS Ministry is formulating a guide to conducting a men's workshop on sexuality, spirituality, and HIV status. You can learn all about it at General Conference in Sydney in July!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

I've only been an MCCer for eight years, but I've been around long enough to know that our Universal Fellowship stands at an historic

crossroads. While our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered community struggles

JUSTICE

Rev. Dr. Mel White
Minister of Justice

against injustice (in North America and abroad) we have re-committed ourselves to a justice ministry that is permanent (new world headquarters in West Hollywood, California) and international (General Conference XVIII in Sydney, Australia).

For almost three decades, now, our beloved founder, Troy Perry, and an impressive list of courageous and committed elders, district coordinators, pastors and lay leaders have risked their lives and sacrificed their resources to build a Fellowship that now embraces congregants in 300 churches in 15 different nations. In spite of our 42,000 official members, I believe the people we've touched, straight and gay alike, number in the hundreds of thousands.

Now, the question is clear. Where do we go from here?

On April 17, I spoke at the Christ Community Church in Spring Lake, Michigan, the third largest Reformed Church in America.

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Community Church of
the Resurrection
Houston, Texas

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**Staff Development
MCCR
1919 Decatur
Houston, TX 77007-7698**

(Schuller's Crystal Cathedral is the largest.) Under Pastor Dick Rhem, this amazing church with its 3,000 members has voted to ignore it's denomination's anti-gay rulings. After a thorough study of the Biblical, theological, and scientific evidences, Christ Community decided to offer the full rights and responsibilities of membership to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Christians.

Christ Community has also been the place of sanctuary for our UFMCC congregation in Spring Lake. At an open forum, Pastor Rhem asked me, "Why should the handful of MCCers' who worship by themselves on Sunday evening in our chapel not join us in full membership now that we are an open and affirming congregation?"

I answered easily, proud of our Fellowship. "We are the largest Christian denomination in the world with a primary outreach to lesbians and gays," I replied. "We have a new world headquarters in West Hollywood and we are about to celebrate our 18th General Conference in Sydney, Australia."

"But there is a place for them to meet now," Pastor Rhem said later in a frank and private exchange. "What shape will your Fellowship take now that large and well-equipped congregations all across the nation are opening the doors to the very people you have served so well?"

Isn't that the question we must double and triple our efforts to answer at our new headquarters in West Hollywood, at our Conference in Sydney, and every other place we gather to think and pray? What new shape will our Fellowship take now?

When Troy invited that first handful of despised and disposed lesbian and gay Christians to worship in his living room 28 years ago, there was no open and affirming movement. UFMCC has bridged the gap. We provided sanctuary to our sisters and brothers who had no other place to worship openly. Now, they do, thousands of them.

Where to from here? A new wind is blowing.

On April 7, in Madison, Wisconsin, after conducting a citywide 'soul force' seminar, I met with 35 ministers at the First Congregational Church to share our UFMCC justice vision. I asked them to help us end the suffering, to write and sign "A Madison Declaration" admitting

their sinfulness in excluding lesbian and gay Christians from their churches, welcoming God's gay children back to full participation in those churches. I didn't think they would do it. They did! I received that "Madison Declaration" today signed by 80 clergy and lay leaders. You can read the full text on our JusticeNET page (www.melwhite.org).

There really is a new wind blowing. It is the Spirit of God answering our UFMCC prayers for justice on behalf of God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered children. God has heard our prayers. Now, in the light of that new wind blowing, what shape will our Fellowship take in the years ahead? What sacrifices will we as the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches have to make to do justice for God's gay children now?

A WELCOME TO NICK COMAN

The friendly voice you now hear when calling UFMCC Headquarters is Nick Coman, our new front desk person and receptionist. He replaces



Catherine Houchins, who has returned to Virginia to be closer to her ailing parents. Nick, who brings a strong commitment to customer

service, has a varied background of experience in non-profit youth services, substance abuse counseling and costume design.

He is a member of the MCLA congregation where he serves on volunteer staff as the church's social events

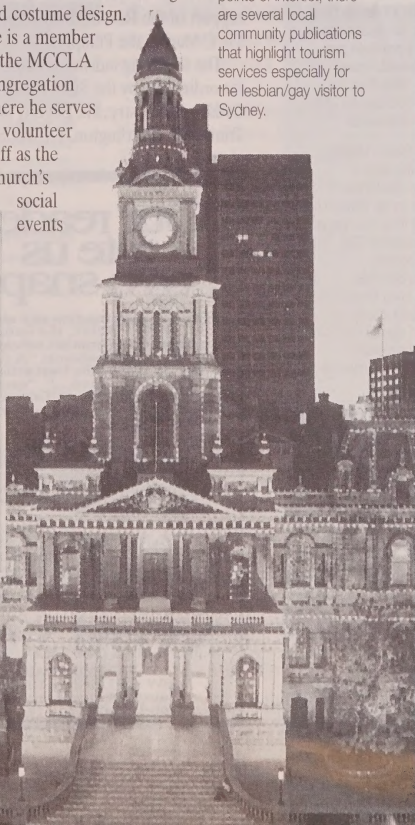
Historic opening:

The historic Sydney Town Hall is the site of opening festivities at General Conference. For help in finding other points of interest, there are several local community publications that highlight tourism services especially for the lesbian/gay visitor to Sydney.

1994/5 AUSTRALIAN Gay & Lesbian TOURISM SERVICES DIRECTORY



A new way to use index of gay and lesbian tourism services from all over Australia.



A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

Center on Capital Hill. ■ MCC New Haven, CT, recently had 75 people in attendance at a special service where the Rev. Troy Perry shared his vision for the future. ■ Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL, celebrated their 27th Anniversary in May. ■ Rev. Steve Torrance, pastor of MCC Key West, FL, was recently selected "Citizen of the Year" by the business community of Key West. ■ MCC Nashville, TN, had installation services for Rev. Denise Leopold as their new pastor and also moved into a new worship location in April. ■ Diablo Valley MCC (Walnut Creek, CA) has changed its name to MCC of the New Vision. ■ Rev. Sharon Sloat was elected as the new pastor of MCC of Omaha, NE. ■ Rev. Michael Nikolaus (Miami, FL) was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Thomas University at commencement ceremonies on May 17th. ■ Please celebrate with Theresa Lopez and Kathi Beall, St. Jude's MCC, Wilmington, NC, who have received their final order for adoption of their daughter, Grace Shakeya Lopez-Beall. May God be praised for the miracle of "Amazing Grace" in our midst!

PRAYERS

For the family of Rev. Grant Ford, pastor of Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, who's father passed away on May 8th. ■ For the family of Rev. Yolanda Vierra-Allen, co-pastor of Mother River Spirit, Oakland, CA, who's last surviving grandfather recently passed away. ■

For the family of Rev. Gordon McCoy, of Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL, in the death of his mother. ■ For the family and friends of Rev. Michael Moffett of Manchester, England, who died of cancer on April 24th. (See obituary in this issue) ■ For the family and friends of Rev. Sheila Kuhn of Des Moines, IA, who died of cancer on May 5th. (See obituary in this issue). ■ Keep Rev. Harry Stock of Washington, DC, in your

Continued

CLASSIFIED

First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta invites application for the full-time position of Senior Pastor. First MCC is the largest of three MCC Churches in Atlanta, which is home to over 200,000 gay, lesbian and transgendered persons. Interested UFMCC ordained clergy should submit a resume, a videotape of a recent sermon presentation, and three letters of reference to: Pastoral Search Committee, First MCC Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Rd., Atlanta, GA 30329. Applications will be accepted through August 15, 1997. All applications will be held in strictest confidence.

ELLEN FANS! Win autographed copy of original script 4/30 episode. Raffle. Tickets \$1 each; 7 for \$5, 15 for \$10. Mail checks and S.A.S.E. to MCC in The Country, 3901 Manzanita Dr., Box C, San Diego, CA 92105-4503. Drawing 7/27.

MCC Tampa - Director of Celebrative Worship. A growth oriented church vested in the fellowship's Strategic Growth Initiative process is seeking a part-time Director of Celebrative Worship to plan, organize, and develop the activities involved in music and worship. Person will coordinate with Senior Pastor and recruit and empower others to contribute to the worship experience. Attractive compensation package offered. All responses confidential. Deadline for application requests is August 1, 1997. MCC Tampa, 408 E. Cayuga St., Tampa, FL 33603, (813) 239-1951, Fax (813) 239-2018, e-mail: UFMCCATAMPA@aol.com. Packets will be available at UFMCC General Conference. Please contact Carol Hale at Conference.

Assistant Pastor - MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO, is now accepting resumes and letters of interest for a full-time position with benefits. Primary areas of responsibility are supervision of lay pastoral care programs, community outreach, and development of cell groups. UFMCC ordination preferred, M.Div. preferred. Please inquire by July 1 to 960 Clarkson Street, Denver, Colorado, 80218.

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DISTRICT COORDINATOR POSITION The Southwest District UFMCC seeks a person with successful pastoral and administrative skills, a minimum of three (3) years experience in UFMCC, and at least three (3) years experience in successful organizational leadership for the position of District Coordinator. Position will begin January 1, 1998 for a four year term and will be filled by election at District Conference in November 1997. The current District Coordinator is expected to stand for re-election. Applications will be sent upon request from Ms. Theresa Swanigan, Nominations Chairperson, 2851 San Francisco Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90806; (562) 427-2287. Note: All applications must include a recent full criminal and credit background check from an approved agency, obtained at the applicant's expense, and sent separately to the Chairperson, Southwest District BOM. Applications and background checks must be received no later than September 1, 1997.

CALL FOR CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS Are you planning to come to General Conference in Sydney? We need a few hours of your time to volunteer. Ushers, pages, and assistants of all sorts (skilled and unskilled) are needed to make every General Conference a success. Just like in your local church, those who get the most out of it are those who get involved! Please request a volunteer form from the UFMCC offices at: UFMCC, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., 2nd floor, W. Hollywood, CA 90069; or download one from our website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>.

MCC Chattanooga, a thirty member congregation serving Southeastern Tennessee, Northwest Georgia, and Northeast Alabama, seeks UFMCC clergy for half-time position. Pastoral and human relationship skills and a sensitivity to an evangelical environment, diverse community, and varied styles of worship are essential. A history of lay leadership means that our members are able to offer strong support in religious education and preaching. All interested parties please respond to Search Committee, MCC Chattanooga, 1601 Foust Street, Chattanooga, TN 37404. Closing date for applications is August 1st.

coordinator and facilitator of the mens group. Originally from Colorado, he has been in Southern California for 13 years. He notes dryly, "I think I'll stay." We hope so, too. Welcome, Nick.

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HOSTS CONFERENCE

Eleanor Neely

What a weekend! May 1-4, 1997, 370 folks from every congregation in the South Central District gathered for four days of dynamic preaching, varied workshops, talented musical ministry from around the district — and a business meeting that will be hard to top for its efficiency and collegiality!

For the first time, children's programming was available throughout the conference. The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson preached the closing worship service and facilitated workshops on local church ecumenical relations and the future of HIV/AIDS Ministries within MCC.

The weekend also featured a focus on Global Outreach with the Rev. Judy Dahl, Administrator of Global Outreach, and Sr. Pablo Navarro Hernandez, pastor of ICM Cristo Sanador, San Juan Puerto Rico, participating in worship and workshops. In addition, the conference raised funds for the support of the Rev. Ed Paul while he is at MCC Manila, the Philippines.

The following individuals were approved for ordination by the SCD Board of Ordained Ministry: Ms. Beverly Bennett, Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX; Mr. Steven

Horlica, Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX; and Mr. Durrell Watkins, Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX.

In other business, the district adopted new SOP's, affirmed the District Committee's intent to proceed with building and selling the second house on the Lawrence Place property as part of the process of building up a district ministry endowment, and affirmed the District Committee's intent to relocate the District Office to the Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Three congregations received awards for excellence in ministry. Both Harvest MCC, Denton, TX, and Eglise du Saint Esprit MCC, Lafayette, LA were recognized for their vision and courage in the face of discrimination and homophobia in their local communities. Central Texas MCC from the Heart received an award for their leadership role in Waco, Texas' first Gay Pride March last year.

Mr. Bernard Barbour, outgoing assistant district coordinator, received the Dr. Tom Reveley Award for outstanding lay leadership. Having served in various local and fellowship level leadership roles, Mr. Barbour will be leaving the district this summer to begin UFMCC clergy formation studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Other awards were presented to Tom Merrill of Joie de Vivre MCC (Baton Rouge, LA), who has served his congregation in roles ranging from preaching to yard care. He recently retired from a five-year term as District Treasurer.

The District Commission on the Laity also honored three individuals. Myra Thornton of Agape MCC (Ft. Worth, TX) was recognized for her work in church music. Mattie Tippit of MCC Lubbock (Lubbock, TX) was honored

Our readers rate us "two snaps."

Here's what readers say about **SECOND STONE**, the national ecumenical Christian newspaper for gays and lesbians: "A real and true uplift..." "the best articles..." "very informative..." "excellent sense of balance..." Take a look at **Second Stone**... you'll see why our subscribers love us!

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AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 1, 1997
BOARDMAN RETREAT
BOARDMAN OREGON CAMPGROUND

CONTACT: Retreat Committee, c/o Lee Taylor
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for her work as a lay delegate and her service on the DCOL Steering Committee. And Mary Coile-Freeman was recognized for her efforts in energizing DCOL ministry programs. Each of the DCOL honorees received a framed certificate and a watch with the South Central District's logo.

GLAD DISTRICT GATHERS FOR CHATTANOOGA CONFERENCE

Over 350 delegates and guests heard the Rev. Elder Don Eastman call for a New Pentecost to "Revive Us Again" as he brought the sermon at the Saturday Night Worship of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District Spring Conference in Chattanooga, TN. The Conference, "One In The Spirit," (May 2-4) also heard from the Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson, a transgendered person who is ordained in the Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Mick Hinson, pastor of MCC Greenville. Writer, attorney and domestic violence activist, Kathy Skaggs, spoke at the conference dinner Friday night. Saturday's speakers included University of Tennessee students, Genny Reardon, and identical twins, Jeremy and Jason Cartwright, as they discussed ways MCC can play a role in campus life. Music Director, Gary Estep, MCC Huntsville, capped an outstanding weekend program of music with the conference massed choir performing the "Hallelujah Chorus." The award for the congregation with the most registrants went to All Saints MCC and Huntsville MCC, both of whom tied with 21. The banner for the highest number of registrants on a per capita basis went to Safe Harbor MCC (Memphis, TN). District Coordinator Rev. Jay Neely praised MCC Chattanooga, the host congregation, as well as MCC Huntsville and MCC Knoxville for their assistance with the Conference.



Gospel at conference: The Children's Choir and David North were featured at Mid-Atlantic District Conference.

For the first time two new churches received our attendance banners: Appalachian MCC (Charleston, WV) won the highest percentage of members in attendance banner and MCC Washington won with the most people registered for the conference banner.

Three new upcoming events are an outgrowth of this District Conference: A Church Planting Summit, a one day gathering for those churches looking to intentionally plant a new church within the next two years within the District; a Children's



Ministry Summit, a one day gathering of those involved in or planning a children's ministry; and a District Music Conference, a two day conference for musicians to network, resource and share.

Mr. Dan Schellhorn, Assistant District Coordinator, Lay Delegate from MCC Washington and facilitator of the District Education Program, was presented a special award from the District Commission on the Laity.

We were blessed to have had Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart in our District over the past months serving as the Interim Pastor of MCC Richmond. Charlie was our guest preacher on Friday evening. David North and the Gospel Celebration with special guest Rev. Delores Berry and other guest performers presented a powerful gospel concert. The spirit is truly alive in the Mid Atlantic District.

This conference is the first in a four-year series of conferences on Leadership 2000. Our next conference is Nov. 14 - 15, in Laurel, MD with the Rev. Elder Don Eastman focusing on "Mobilizing For Ministry."

April 24 - 25, 1998 our guest speaker noted church growth historian and author Dr. Lyle E. Schaller focusing on Leadership 2000: Pioneering for the 21st Century.

A Fellowship of Activity

Continued

prayers as he begins his leave of absence from active ministry after 13 years of service. ■ Prayers for Rev. Charlie Lott who's lover, Vee, died suddenly while they were at the Mountains and Plains District Conference on April 2nd. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO, did a

wonderful memorial service on April 19. ■ Prayers for the New Group in Grand Forks, ND, who lost their meeting space and many members homes during the recent floods.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

July 13-15 - Northwest District Conference to be held in Waikiki, Hawaii at the Outrigger Prince Kuhio; the theme for the Conference is "In My Parent's House, There are Many Rooms". Special

guest speakers will be Elder Larry Rodriguez, and Rev. Steve Pieters, both from Los Angeles, CA. All registrations received by July 1 will include two meals and a Luau hosted by the host church Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC, Honolulu.

Keeping In Touch June 1997

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping In Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to: 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California USA 90069 310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680 e-mail ufmccq@aol.com Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr., Director of Communications

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell
Rev. Steve Pieters

"LEADERSHIP 2000" CAPTURES MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

The theme of the Mid-Atlantic District Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, "Leadership 2000," captured the hearts and spirit of this conference. With special guest Wendy Foxworth, the leadership of the Mid Atlantic District was challenged to be a viable, relevant church fully prepared to enter the 21st century at this May gathering.

We explored how our district can effectively reach another 2,000 people in the next few years. We also focused on ways to strengthen our church of today while discovering new ways to reach out to others and to plant even more churches.

This was the largest District Conference in the history of our District with 251 registered attendees.



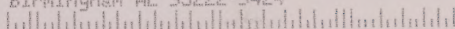
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Chronicles

TOP 20 TITHES - APRIL 1997

1.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$4,841.19
2.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$2,656.93
3.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$2,493.26
4.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$2,385.70
5.	MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$1,834.48
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	\$1,460.37
7.	St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC	\$1,321.66
8.	River City MCC, Sacramento, CA	\$1,303.76
9.	Joy MCC, Orlando, FL	\$1,272.59
10.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$1,245.81
11.	MCC New York, New York City, NY	\$1,242.36
12.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$1,157.39
13.	MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$1,111.59
14.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$1,098.46
15.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,073.10
16.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$1,054.08
17.	Agape' MCC, Fort Worth, TX	\$1,016.90
18.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ	\$1,007.67
19.	St. John The Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL	\$ 817.54
20.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$ 789.64

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - APRIL 1997

1.	Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	\$58.14
2.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$50.77
3.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	\$46.66
4.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$40.78
5.	MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA	\$36.90
6.	Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, AR	\$36.80
7.	Eternal Light MCC, Lacey, WA	\$35.38
8.	MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$29.96
9.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ	\$29.29
10.	Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$29.02
11.	All Saints MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$28.71
12.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA	\$26.32
13.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT	\$25.72
14.	MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL	\$25.05
15.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$23.96
16.	MCC Hickory, Hickory, NC	\$23.63
17.	Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA	\$23.07
18.	Lexington's MCC, Lexington, KY	\$22.87
19.	MCC Amarillo, Amarillo, TX	\$22.82
20.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC	\$22.72

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Keeping in Touch

May 1997

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET TO CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA? THINK AGAIN!

Think it's too late—or too expensive—to attend the historic UFMCC General Conference XVII in Australia this July? Think again! As many MCC'ers are discovering, it's not too late to make plans to attend. And many churches are finding creative ways to raise the funds to send their delegations.

Up Front

Nathan Meckley
Jim Birkitt

First...it's not too late! You can still pre-register through June 15, or you can even register on-site in Sydney. Space is also still

available to book travel and lodging with Above and Beyond Tours. They will accept bookings until the beginning of July, while space remains available, but don't delay! A late booking fee of \$50 will apply to all reservations made after May 1. Space is still available for the extension trips and day tours – but going fast. Questions? Call Above and Beyond at 1-800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666.

If money is a concern, it's never too late to try creative avenues for Conference funding. Dr. Robert Schuller, the enthusiastic proponent of "Possibility Thinking," recommends a technique for "making the impossible possible!" He calls the system "Count To 10... And Win!" With your goal firmly in mind, run the numbers 1-10 down the left hand side of a sheet of paper. Now dream! Brainstorm! Off the top of your head list 10 ways you might reach your goal. Then begin working through your list. Test each idea. According to Dr. Schuller, usually at least one idea on your list will "hit gold."

With that in mind, we'd like to offer some creative ideas you might include on your list that other churches are using to "make their dream come true."

■ Is your church big...on talent and energy? A "Fun Fest" was held at MCC Washington DC and included a variety of 22 acts from music and poetry, to drag and a Parade of Easter Bonnets. The proceeds were earmarked for travel to Australia.

■ Try Sunday brunch after church. You can catch people before they leave church — probably for brunch somewhere else! Add a 50/50 raffle, some good spring weather, and maybe some entertainment. MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, California, has found this a successful delegate fundraiser.

■ Have you considered one of those trendy mystery parties where people attend in character? Serve a nice dinner, raise some money and have a great time.

■ How about a Dance and Silent Auction? Ask local businesses to donate items or services and designate the income for Conference travel. MCC Eugene, Oregon succeeded with their Valentine's Dance.

■ Invite members and friends to donate frequent flyer miles. Even if you don't have enough to get to Sydney, you may be able to get the "add-on" flight to Los Angeles, reducing your costs. Even if you've asked before, try inviting again — someone may have earned more mileage!

■ Do you have members or friends who work for the travel industry? They may donate "buddy passes" for UFMCC travelers.

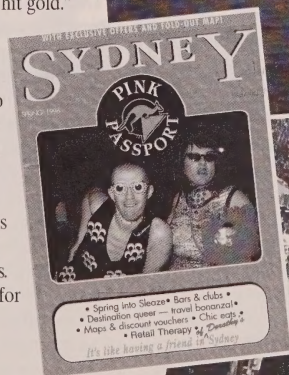
■ Make a list of those in your community with "deep pockets" (even non-MCC'ers) and send them a letter or speak to them about the historic nature of General Conference and how it will help your congregation

better serve your local community and invite a significant (tax-deductible) donation.

■ Invite members to designate a portion of their tax refunds to "make the dream come true."

More than just an opera house:

You will find Sydney to be abuzz with night life, and community publications can be your guide. There are also many bizaars and street fairs to satisfy your urge to shop till you drop.



If you have any questions about the General Conference or need registration forms, call UFMCC Headquarters at (310) 360-8640. Or e-mail us at UFMCCHQ@aol.com. Or fax us at (310) 360-8680. Or visit our website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>, where you can download registration forms and information.

General Conference XVIII in Australia promises to be our most exciting and historic conference to date! We hope – really hope! – to see you there as we make history together!

UFMCC MISSION, VISION STATEMENTS PROPOSED FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

General Council has proposed the following mission and vision statements for our denomination. They will be presented for affirmation during business sessions at General Conference XVII. The next issue of *Keeping In Touch* will feature the proposed ministry priorities to be voted upon at General Conference, and which will form the basis for our new denomination budgeting process.

Proposed Mission Statement: The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is a Christian church founded in and reaching beyond the gay and lesbian communities. We embody and proclaim Christian salvation and liberation, Christian inclusivity and community, and Christian social action and justice. We serve among those seeking and celebrating the integration of their spirituality and sexuality.

Proposed Vision Statement: The vision of the UFMCC is to embody the presence of the Divine in the world, to challenge the con-

science of the universal Christian Church, and to celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of each person. As we move toward this vision, by 2003, UFMCC will be comprised of at least 70,000 members and adherents who are all called and equipped to minister with excel-



lence. This diverse global body will be widely recognized as a prophetic light and driving force for an inclusive Christian spirituality which celebrates the integration of spirituality and human sexuality. Through our strengthened local churches, we will meet the justice and faith needs of people in increasing numbers of countries and cultures.

GENERAL CONFERENCE: IDEAL PLACE FOR TRAINING, EDUCATION

Excitement is building for General Conference in Sydney, Australia. What a great destination for the most influential gathering in UFMCC life! General Conference, as always, will also be a great place to gain new ministry skills by attending workshops for professional and personal development. Nearly thirty workshops will be presented on a variety of issues, all with particular appeal and geared to equipping local church ministry.

Several workshops are being sponsored by the Strategic Growth Initiative including the following topics: "Community, Cause,

Corporation: A Paradigm for Church Development"; "Board of Directors Update on Financial Management," "Reaching Generation X," and more. For example, "Benchmarks of Excellence in The Church" will feature diagnostic tools and resources to help local churches improve quality in three key ministry areas: Purpose, Vision & Mission; Celebrative Worship; and, Effective Stewardship. Also sponsored by SGI, "Front Door, Side Door, Back Door" will discuss contemporary trends and personal reasons which impact



Conference, catholics: Sydney will be a great place to learn hands-on skills at workshops, above. Lower: Rev. Ron Helms attended a recent Roman Catholic mass where a bishop asked the forgiveness of gay and lesbian people.

individuals' choices of churches. "Guerilla Marketing for the Local Church" will explore cost-effective, proven strategies for publicizing your church's ministries and reaching the unchurched.

From "Technology for the Church," to "Successful Christmas Eve Outreach," workshops will stimulate new ideas to implement in your local church. You'll find new inspiration in the workshops "Clergy Pastoral Transitions" and "Doing Yourself Justice: Reconnecting Personal Power for Effective Leadership in Ministry."

Health and wholeness are concerns in every MCC and workshops on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, as well as a workshop on the "Asian Approach to Health" by Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung will be offered. Special interest workshops such as "Gay and Lesbian Parenting," workshops in Spanish and special offerings for registrants ("non-delegates") will also be offered. Workshops by the Women's Secretariat, Faith Fellowship and Order, Ministry of Diversity in Spiritual Community and the Commission on the Laity will highlight the important concerns of these particular ministries.

Not only can you look forward to a great time in Sydney, but it will be a terrific chance to gather new skills and knowledge to take home and enhance ministry. Verification of General Conference workshop attendance will be available to meet the continuing education requirements for UFMCC clergy.

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC ASSISTS HEALTH CLINIC

The Rev. Michael Piazza, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope MCC has presented a check for \$40,000 to Trinity Ministry to the Poor. The funds were collected by the Cathedral congregation during Lent and will be used to help fund a health clinic for homeless and impoverished people.

"Although we are in the midst of raising money for a new building, we are deter-

A Fellowship of Opportunity

Looking for a course in church growth? Conflict resolution? Church revitalization? Interpersonal communications? Creative ministry? Or some esoteric theological concept? UFMCC Office of Clergy Development has compiled a listing educational opportunities, courses and conferences. For a free copy, call the Rev. Maggie Tanis at (310) 360-8640 or send an e-mail request to UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

mined to be faithful to the calling of Jesus," said Piazza. "It's tempting to strike back at those who continue to attack our community or say gay and lesbian people can't be Christians. We have chosen instead to use our energy to build a church that proves them wrong. Through programs like this and the many other benevolence ministries and service projects, the Cathedral of Hope seeks to embody the spirit of Jesus."

In addition to the \$40,000 donation, the congregation is also donating time and talents as volunteers for the Trinity ministry.

MCC NEW YORK CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Metropolitan Community Church-New York City celebrated its 25th anniversary during Holy Week with over 1000 people attending the combined Holy Week and Easter services. The church celebrated its founding by the Rev. Howard Wells in 1972 with the testimony of Mr. Dubose "Mac" McLane, a charter member who described the first worship service of MCC-NY as outdoors, in a city park, next to a subway station, during a rainstorm. Then, 10 years ago, the Rev. Pat Bumgardner became pastor of the church. Since that time the church has grown by 100% and secured property now valued at \$1 million that is fully paid. MCC-NY also produces a weekly television show.

The New York City church has always involved itself in the community it serves. From its participation in the annual Gay Pride Celebration, to its work in feeding 2700 homeless people monthly, Pastor Bumgardner reports, "Our success is clearly communicating a vision and a mission for our church within our city, and beyond our borders."

The Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry was the speaker for Holy Week services. One highlight of the celebration was the surprise visit of Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger to the church's 25th Anniversary Banquet. Ms. Messinger honored the 25th

anniversary of MCC-NY and ministry of its pastor to those in need, and declared March 29, 1997 as "The Rev. Troy D. Perry Day In Manhattan."

As part of the weekend celebration, Rev. Perry made a presentation on Sunday night for the UFMCC Capital Campaign and received \$89,355.50 in gifts and pledges. This is the highest offering to date for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches Capital Campaign from any local church. Pastor Bumgardner noted, "I believe our people contributed so well because we have always felt such an integral part of the programs of UFMCC and because we parallel the growth of the larger denomination. These gifts are also seed faith for our own vision of buying a larger building in the next few years so that our congregation might continue to grow well beyond our goal of doubling our membership in five years."

UFMCC INTERNET PRESENCE GROWS

GLBT Christians have an increasing number of opportunities to receive information, share their faith, and nurture friendships on the Internet.

America On Line now sponsors two on-line chat rooms for GLBT Christians. These are safe places to share questions, discuss concerns, uplift each other in prayer and chat with other Christians. The rooms meet Thursday and Friday evenings, both from 8-10 Eastern (5-7 Pacific) time.

Thursday night's room is within the OnQ portion of AOL (Keyword: GLCF chat, then select Community. UFMCC officially sponsors the Friday night room together with

Troy Perry Day in Manhattan: Borough President Ruth Messinger, center, with Rev. Pat Bumgardner and Rev. Perry, made a surprise appearance at anniversary ceremonies of MCCNY, declaring it Troy Perry Day in Manhattan.



Love and prayers to the Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein who has been appointed Interim Area Coordinator for New Zealand. The Rev. Ron Helms of Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY attended the recent, historic Roman Catholic Mass for the gay community at which Bishop Matthew Clark asked for forgiveness from gays and lesbians. Pastor Helms spoke with the bishop and encouraged an ongoing dialogue. Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay, WI, continues to grow. They now have nine children involved in their Children's Ministry and are considering offering a Vacation Church School this summer. Congratulations to the Rev. Tom Bohache, assistant pastor of MCC NOVA (Falls Church, VA), who was invited to present a paper at the American Academy of Religion in Macon GA. His paper explored the history of biblical interpretation in the early Christian church. Rev. Ron Helms of Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY, was recently renamed to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's Religious Leaders Advisory Committee for the 28th U.S. Congressional District. Good Samaritan Parish MCC, Toledo, OH, and Tree of Life MCC, Ypsilanti, MI, celebrated a "Joint Anniversary Weekend" in April with a dinner, auction, lots of entertainment and dancing. MCC of San Diego, CA, has been chosen to receive a grant in the amount of \$6,000 from AIDS walk San Diego. This money will be designated for salary for an AIDS Service Coordinator for the church. Jesus MCC, Indianapolis, IN, has raised over \$3400.00 so far through their "One Dime at a Time" Campaign to fund their participation at General Conference in Sydney. Members have saved dimes in soft drink cans for the past two years. Congratulations to Becky Dickman, pastor of Appalachian MCC, and to their congregation for calling a town meeting to meet with local officials concerning treatment of the gay community. Pastor Dickman was appointed liaison to the police department and has since taught a course to the police on cultural diversity. Please remember the Rev. Ed Paul as he returns to Manila, Philippines, to do missionary work for MCC there. If you would like to contribute to this vital effort please write to the Rev. Judy Dahl at UFMCC.

Continued

PlanetOut (keyword: PNO, select Chats, select Topic Chats and then find UFMCC. The room has a webpage at <http://members.aol.com/pnotigger> to answer your questions.

UFMCC's webpage continues to grow and is a great resource of GLBT Christians. You'll find a variety of timely information, including recent denominational news releases, press statements by Troy Perry, updates on Conference, Bible and homosexuality information, UFMCC history, and links to more than 130 MCC's.

Details on the chat rooms are also found on the church page of the UFMCC web site (<http://www.ufmcc.com>). Presently the rooms

are only accessible to AOL members, but the Fellowship and PlanetOut have plans to expand our outreach to include the World Wide Web in the future.

UFMCC has also expanded its e-mail information services. Anyone interested in signing up for this free service to receive news digests, action alerts, press statements and church news may e-mail their request to UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

HARVEST MCC FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO PROTECT FREEDOM

Harvest MCC (Denton/Corinth, TX) has filed suit in federal court to protect their right to freedom of worship. Harvest MCC purchased land for their growing congregation, but city officials denied their request for a Special Use Permit for use as a church — even though the property has been used for more than two years as a Korean prayer and retreat center.

According to Harvest's senior pastor, the Rev. Colleen Darraugh, the church purchased 12.5 acres which formed an ideal location for the church. The land had been tested for suitability for construction and already included a chapel used by the Korean prayer center.

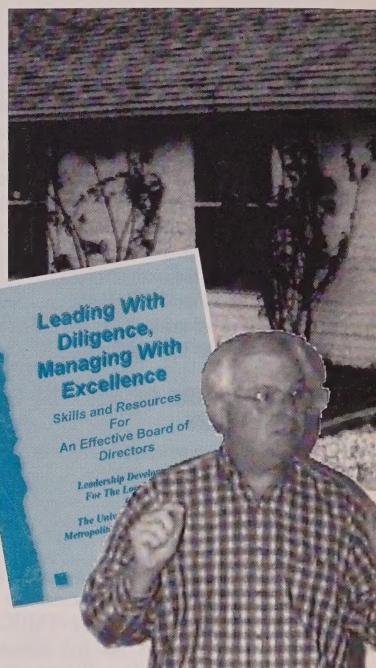
According to Pastor Darraugh, the church was surprised when the planning commission denied Harvest's application. The city council then unanimously denied the permit. Pastor Darraugh noted that publicly expressed concerns focused on loss of potential tax revenue. However, she was quick to note that Harvest's zoning change would mean only a 0.2% change in overall light industrial land and that the sale of the current church property would actually generate additional taxes.

The church was especially concerned that many of the local citizens had expressed opposition to having a "gay" church in their neighborhood. One citizen told Pastor Darraugh he didn't want his children to see gay people. Other neighbors tried to persuade the owner not to sell because Harvest was a gay church. Pastor Darraugh is convinced community opposition is being fueled by homophobia rather than tax loss.

In the process, Harvest MCC has received intense media coverage from newspapers, television stations and radio talk shows.

Now the church's only appeal is to the federal courts. On April 16, 1997, Harvest MCC filed a federal suit against the City of Corinth, TX to protect the church's right to freedom of worship.

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, UFMCC modera-



tor, was quick to send a message of encouragement to the Harvest congregation. Elder Perry noted, "It was with joy that I learned you had filed suit in Federal Court. I commend you for putting legs on your prayers. Please know that I believe you are doing the right thing and that all of us at UFMCC Headquarters are in prayer for you at this time. I know the lawsuit may take a little time—don't get discouraged. Remember, God may be slow, but God is always on time."

INTOLERANCE DISGUISED AS COMPASSION

The hospital corridors grow silent. In five minutes, visiting hours will end. Since morning, you've waited. No one came. You're feeling particularly vulnerable when suddenly a

stranger enters your room carrying flowers and smiling broadly.

"Hello," he says. "My name is John. Where would you like the flowers?"

You don't recognize the friendly stranger but you've seen that Cheshire grin before; and though you're glad that someone seems to care, this man makes you feel uneasy.

"God can forgive you, son" the stranger says, moving towards your bed. "God can make you well if you'll only let Him."

Alarm bells ring. Sirens sound. You are

A Message from Troy Perry

Never before in 29 years of ministry to our community have I felt such a sense of excitement and pride as I'm feeling today. Excitement about the historic General Conference in Australia... and pride at the response of our people and churches to this significant, international event.

The early statistics have been tallied and I'm pleased to report that we had the highest early registration on March 1 of any General Conference in UFMCC history as of that date.

I am convinced that God is moving in a powerful way — and that this is going to be our most historic, exciting General Conference ever. Enthusiasm is running high in our churches in Australia. International press outlets are contacting us for information. God is preparing to move us to a whole new level of dynamic ministry! Together, we are going to make history as we gather for the largest religious conference of gays and lesbians ever held in the Pacific Rim!

It's not too late for you to attend this historic, life-changing General Conference in Australia. Our travel agency will continue to process travel reservations right through June!

Again, I am praising God for the positive, enthusiastic responses we are receiving to General Conference — and I'm pleased to extend a personal invitation for you to join us in Australia July 20-25 for six historic, life-changing days. Won't you join us for this opportunity of a lifetime? We must be the "Light of the World!"

Justice

Rev. Dr. Mel White
Minister of Justice



■ **Fightin' and teachin':** While Pastor Colleen Darraugh of Harvest MCC found herself in court over the church's right to worship in Denton, Texas (above), Elder Don Eastman was a presenter at the UFMCC's first mini-conference in St. Louis.

entering the twilight zone where dangerous untruth prevails. Beware! The visitor about to sit on the edge of your bed means well, but he is a victim of misinformation. Don't let him make you a victim as well.

Like leprosy in the first century, HIV/AIDS has been falsely associated by un-informed religious leaders with 'sin.' If the virus is contracted by so many gay men and drug users, they reason, it must be "a sign of God's anger." No matter that God loves gay men and drug users as much as God loves the babies who are born infected and the celibate, cloistered nuns who contract the virus through tainted blood.

"Go away," you say quietly, realizing his agenda.

"Can I pray for you before I go?" he asks, still smiling.

"Go away," you say again, pressing firmly on the call button.

Don't let him ask another question. Don't take his literature. Don't even let him pray. Just press the button and point him towards the door.

I don't like describing this all-too-familiar scene for many reasons, most of them raised by my wise friend and colleague, Lemar Rodgers. He is convinced that the real problem for people with AIDS is not the person who appears wearing compassion to mask intolerance, but the friends and family who promise compassion and fail to deliver.

Second, Lemar doesn't want me to caricature all people of faith as intolerant when they aren't. In fact, across the country conservative Christians are beginning to understand that HIV/AIDS is just another powerful virus that one day, soon, with God's help, we will render powerless.

Third, my friend doesn't want us to be afraid and suspicious of the people of faith who appear in our lives offering compassion. There is a new wave of care-givers, people of faith who are overcoming their ignorance and fear, who are taking this epidemic seriously. Under the direction of Steve Pieters, our own UFMCC AIDS Ministry has led the way.

In the meantime, how do we respond when we realize that someone has appeared in our life (a stranger or a friend) who wears compassion as a mask, but is really there to condemn and convert us? Here are a few suggestions on dealing with intolerance that comes in disguise:

1. Most people who reach out to you, really do care.
2. All people of faith are not your enemy; but, if they're wearing a 700 Club button, or carrying a Focus on the Family tract, or misusing the Bible to condemn you, pick up the call button and push it.
3. If they connect AIDS (or any suffering) with God's judgment, they are misinformed. AIDS is a virus. Suffering comes "to the just and the unjust." You are God's beloved child. God hates the virus and loves you.
4. Real compassion loves and accepts you exactly as you are. Once you've established that your visitor is genuinely compassionate, relax and enjoy.
5. Don't stop your own spirit journey just because so many people of faith are ignorant and intolerant. Don't toss out the Book, just because they misuse it.
6. And next time, when you feel most alone, remember that the spirit of your loving Creator is with you always. Don't be afraid to share your deepest feelings with the One who loves you now, and who, in spite of anything you do or say, will go on loving you forever.

E-MAIL AND THE INTERNET FOR FREE (OR FOR JUST A LITTLE MONEY!)

Do you keep hearing all of those great things about e-mail and Internet access but don't know

Hands-On

Rev. Maggie Tanis
Director, Clergy Development

where to start? Looking for FREE or low-cost options? Check these out!

For FREE access to e-mail within the US, contact Juno at 1-800-654-JUNO (or at www.juno.com); the software and e-mail access are free; Juno is the fifth largest e-mail provider in the US; not available for Macintosh users.

For FREE e-mail if you have access to the World Wide Web (including through other people's computers, cafes, etc.) from anywhere in the world, contact HotMail at www.hotmail.com or (408) 222-7000. Only basic Internet access through any provider is required; you don't even need to own the computer!

Need a FREE web browser? You can download free web browsers and viewers to install on your computer from the Microsoft Network home page at www.microsoft.com.

Interested in a FREE home page?

Headquarters. ■ MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA, recently celebrated their 16th Anniversary with a "Sweet 16 Dance" in April at a local hotel with dancing, an auction, and lots of entertainment. ■ You really can continue to do God's work after death. A bequest was recently received from the late Larry McIndoo of his home to MCC-LA, CA. Through the sale of the home MCC-LA was able to donate \$60,000 to the UFMCC Capital Campaign. ■ MCC Milwaukee, WI, had seven members present and ready to testify in favor of same gender marriage before the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Children and Families. They were joined in this venture by nine members from Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay, WI. ■ Ms. Marsha Stevens of BALM Ministries spent the past month in Florida with her son completing her latest album in time for General Conference. She has also written, and will sing, the conference theme song, "You Are the Light of the World."

PRAYERS

Good News from Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey! She reports she is getting stronger and will begin traveling again soon. Her doctors say she cannot fly every week so she is in the process of purchasing a motor home thanks to a generous donation given to her recently. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. ■ Prayers for the family of Rev. Gina Chapman, pastor of Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA, whose mother passed away on April 6. ■ Continued prayers are needed for Sheila Kuhn who is battling cancer which is now progressing quickly in her bones. ■ Prayers for the family of Ravi Verma, Director of Administration for UFMCC, whose father has been hospitalized recently in Bombay, India. ■ Prayers for the family and friends of Mr. David Taggart, New Zealand Area Coordinator from 1991-95 who has passed away. Keep the District in your prayers as they mourn his passing. ■ Prayers for Rev. Michael Horn, the Area Coordinator for New Zealand, recovering from a stroke that occurred in March. ■ Prayers for Rev. Jane Carl and Rev. Susan Deitrick who have just moved to Akron, OH. Just before moving, Jane's vehicle burned in a fire.

MEET GENERAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce the three winners of the General Conference XVIII Registration Lottery. The drawing was held during the March General Council meeting. Congratulations to the three winners who will receive free Conference registrations:



Mr. David Sorey, Lay Delegate, MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO
"Thank you for the surprise! I was surprised and delighted to hear that I was one of the winners!"



Ms. Myra Marshall, Lay Delegate, Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI
"Thank you for the wonderful news! See you in Australia!"



Mr. Richard Murphy, Registrant, MCC South Beach, Miami, FL
"I couldn't be more pleased or surprised! The Lord is definitely working in my life; I asked for a sign but never expected such a resounding response!"

Keeping In Touch May 1997

The monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscription free upon request. Send address changes, news, and ideas to:
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West Hollywood, California USA 90069
310/360-8640, fax 310/360-8680
e-mail ufmccq@aol.com
Web site <http://www.ufmcc.com>
Deadline for each issue is the 10th of prior month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr., *Director of Communications*

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, *Moderator*
Ravi Verma, *Director of Administration*

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell
Rev. Steve Pieters

Europeans can have a free web page courtesy of Europe@home. They have directions in many European languages (just click on the flag) and can be reached at www.yi.com/home. Pages for individuals are free and professional home pages are 10 ECUs a month.

FREE home pages and e-mail are available through Geocities. One of their virtual neighborhoods is "West Hollywood," for gay and lesbian virtual residents (and the geographic home of the UFMCC headquarters). You'll find other MCCs here. Find Geocities at www.geocities.com.

Additional (and relatively inexpensive) e-mail and Internet sources are: ■ America Online, in the US, call 1-800-827-6364, \$19.95 per month unlimited access to the Internet, AOL services and e-mail; the service used by the majority of MCCs ■ Internet Helpshop, in Australia; call David Rand at 61-7-5527 8994 for access information from your city for e-mail and home pages ■ MSN (Microsoft Network), for Australia, Canada, France, United Kingdom and United States; call 1-800-386-5550 in the US, \$6.95 per month for 5 hours and \$19.95 per month for unlimited usage; in Australia, call 02 9934 9000; in France, call 05 91 7242; and in the United Kingdom, call 0800 750 800. ■ Prodigy, call 1-800-776-3449 with service at \$19.95 per month for unlimited usage or \$9.95 per month for 5 hours plus \$2.95 for each additional hour

THE RE-STIGMATIZATION OF HIV

It's happening again: people who are being diagnosed with HIV today are being stigmatized by their diagnosis. Other people seem to be saying, "We know how to prevent HIV

transmission now... how could you do this to yourself?"

Stigma is a stain on our character, which negatively affects the way others see us. In the early eighties, the stigma was based in fear... fear of illness, death, and the unknown. There are many stories of how AIDS inspired tremendous fear in the general population, due to the unknowns of the epidemic. Today, the stigma is based in anger, battle fatigue, and apathy.

Because of these attitudes, people are learning to be ashamed of their infection. They fear disclosure. This can lead to living in the HIV closet, which, as it always has, prevents a person from getting appropriate support and even health care. At the Global Headquarters of the UFMCC, we know that there are many more of our leadership living with HIV than have identified themselves to us.

But the fact remains that they still need support, encouragement, and a positive attitude. We need to believe in ourselves

HIV/AIDS

Rev. Steve Pieters
Director, HIV/AIDS Ministry

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enough to do the work of staying alive with HIV.

Being open about HIV may take strength and courage. The only way to change attitudes, I believe, is to put a human face on the condition, and challenge the assumptions that people are making through their stigmatization of others. Not everyone can afford to do this. But I have confidence that there will always be some who will remain open and challenge the injustices of stigma.

ST. JOHN'S MCC CHOIR WINS ACCLAIM

The Voices, the sanctuary choir of St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC, was selected "Best And Most Diverse Gospel Choir" in the "Best Of..." issue of a mainline newspaper serving North Carolina. The newspaper noted, "St. John's MCC in Raleigh is a Christian church where all are welcome. This commitment is exemplified by The Voices' membership: gay, lesbian, straight, black, white, Asian and physically challenged men and women. Whatever their walk of life, the choir members are all involved in a common ministry, one with a long history in the South: spreading the Good News to any folks willing to open their ears, minds and hearts." David Heid serves as St. John's Director of Music, and is Conference Music Director of UFMCC General Conference XVIII in Australia.

GLOBAL OUTREACH "ON LINE"

It's challenging and exciting to see how the UFMCC is developing in virtual reality. Those of

Global UFMCC

Rev. Judy Dahl
Director, Global Outreach

us who have the privilege to be "on-line" know how quickly and easily (sometimes) we can access the world of information. Our ability to "reach to all the ends of the earth..." has been increased in exponential ways. The "universal" reality of our denomination is no longer a dream or a goal; it is a happening!

The seven existing countries and continents which currently comprise the Global Outreach of the UFMCC, and the seven remaining areas which comprise our districts, are the foundation for the development of our universal presence in the world. We have an awesome and enlivening task ahead of us.

In just a few weeks, China's takeover of Hong Kong will be official. We are certainly aware of the potential enhanced discrimination which will confront our trans-les-bi-gay sisters and brothers in Hong Kong.

It is profoundly noticeable how close in time to this takeover is UFMCC's General Conference in Australia. For the first time in our

history, we will meet as a religious body of faith-filled, love-empowered people, to share our light on the Pacific Rim! Hong Kong is not too far away. Perhaps we will go as God's answer to a contemporary day struggle. Perhaps, though we may sometimes feel small and irrelevant, God sends us as a Light to the World.

It is no small thing we do, when we gather together in Sydney. It is not just for us that we go. It is not just to do our business, but to bring light to the world. Perhaps, as the alert spreads out across the fiber optics of our virtual reality, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to go on-line and set the world on fire!

FIRST REGIONAL MINI-CONFERENCE HELD LAST MONTH IN SAINT LOUIS

The first ever UFMCC Regional Mini-Conference was held in St. Louis in April. More than forty MCCers from fourteen churches attended this weekend conference which highlighted the role of the board of directors and creative ways to conduct capital campaigns.

Workshop presenters included Elder Don Eastman, Ravi Verma, Bob King, and J Hulsey-Mazur. District coordinators in attendance were Judy Dale and the Rev. Bob Arthur. Look for information coming soon on the next UFMCC Mini-Conference. Mini-Conferences are especially designed for the convenience of lay persons and offer sessions on Friday evening and all day Saturday, with optional modules available on Sunday mornings.

Our readers rate us "two snaps."

Here's what readers say about SECOND STONE, the national ecumenical Christian newspaper for gays and lesbians: "A real and true uplift..." "the best articles..." "very informative..." "excellent sense of balance..." "Take a look at Second Stone... you'll see why our subscribers love us!"

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

May 23-27 - Mountains & Plains District Conference and Clergy Retreat Guest speaker Tex Sample with the theme of "Other Sheep Have I".

May 29-June 1 - Great Lakes District Conference Special guests Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Ms. Beth Clark. Theme of the conference is "Asking God" with focus on local Church issues. To be held at French Quarter Holiday Inn, Perrysburg, Ohio.

June 6-8 - EXCEL Weekend Excel in the Son will hold a weekend in St. Petersburg, Florida.

July 13-15 - Northwest District Conference Honolulu, Hawaii.

JULY 20-25 GENERAL CONFERENCE XVIII SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

CLASSIFIEDS

MCC of Greater St. Louis, Missouri, a chartered UFMCC Church since 1974, announces a pastoral vacancy effective March 20, 1997. Located in a large metropolitan area, MCC St. Louis serves a diverse population. MCC St. Louis' active membership is in excess of one hundred, with two Sunday worship services to serve the community. We are an energetic, growing congregation seeking to employ a Senior Pastor. Interested clergy please respond to: MCC of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 13410, St. Louis, MO 63138-0410.

UFMCC Eastern Canadian District is now receiving nominations for their upcoming election for District Coordinator. The current District Coordinator, Rev. Marcie Wexler, will stand for re-election. Send resumes to the District office at 33 Holly St., #1117, Toronto, ON, Canada M4S-2G8.

Gail Bird Vestments, Inc., has just issued a new catalog of vestments and paraments, featuring items of special interest to MCC clergy. To obtain a copy write: P.O. Box 21271, Denver, CO 80221; Phone or FAX 303/431-9163.

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24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: (415) 864-0406.

ATTENTION Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: Say Nothing, Sign Nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.



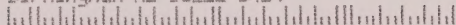
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TOP 20 TITHES - MARCH 1997

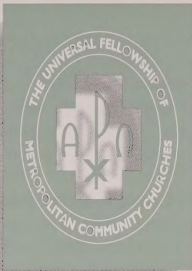
1.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$6,182.99
2.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC	\$3,817.60
3.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	\$2,672.52
4.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$2,404.87
5.	MCC New York, New York, NY	\$2,400.73
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	\$2,304.81
7.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	\$2,287.54
8.	MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$1,976.37
9.	Joy MCC, Orlando, FL	\$1,886.39
10.	St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC	\$1,646.90
11.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA	\$1,620.67
12.	MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC	\$1,581.73
13.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX	\$1,452.94
14.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL	\$1,450.74
15.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ	\$1,401.69
16.	First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS	\$1,376.02
17.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD	\$1,327.40
18.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA	\$1,293.12
19.	MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC	\$1,223.60
20.	Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA	\$1,163.55

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

TOP 20 PER CAPITA - MARCH 1997

1.	MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO	\$38.68
2.	Spirit of Peace MCC, Prairie Grove, AR	\$35.62
3.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA	\$31.65
4.	Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO	\$30.50
5.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA	\$30.33
6.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ	\$30.01
7.	MCC Glendale, Glendale, CA	\$29.17
8.	MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS	\$26.52
9.	Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL	\$25.77
10.	New Creation MCC, Columbus, OH	\$24.73
11.	Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA	\$24.13
12.	MCC Augusta, Augusta, GA	\$24.11
13.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY	\$22.69
14.	Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL	\$22.39
15.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC	\$21.61
16.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA	\$21.58
17.	Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN	\$21.41
18.	MCC Amarillo, Amarillo, TX	\$20.77
19.	MCC of the Pomona Valley, Claremont, CA	\$19.95
20.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	\$19.88

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

April 1997

Making the Most Out of General Conference in Australia

U FMCC General Conference is always an exciting experience! Transformative worship, informative workshops, exciting special speakers, important business, networking and fun with hundreds of MCC'ers from around the world make every General Conference thrilling. This

COVER STORY NATHAN MECKLEY

will be true July 20-25, in Sydney, Australia. But this will also be a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed!

First, you should plan on having a good time. Australians and "Sydneyiders" have a well earned reputation for being hospitable and fun-loving. Most MCC'ers will be staying in or near the central gay/lesbian area of Sydney with plenty of restaurants, shops and clubs. (Remember, if you're coming from the US, it's your turn to be the one with a charming accent!) Also, since seasons are reversed on the other side of the equator, this July will be the first mid-winter UFMCC General Conference. Temperatures will range from 10 to 16° (Don't worry, that's Celsius. It will be about 50 to 60° Fahrenheit.)

Beyond these unique qualities, if you are going all the way to Australia you should be making the most of the trip. Included in the Conference schedule are several planned activities. An Opening Reception will follow the Rally on Sunday, July 20. The opening reception is a always a great chance to meet and re-connect with MCC friends. At this event, we will also honor Elder Larry Rodriguez who concludes his term of active ser-

vice on the Board of Elders in July. On Wednesday late afternoon we are off for a cruise around Sydney Harbour! The city of Sydney is built around a lovely harbor and one of the best ways to view this beautiful city is on a catamaran cruise. We will enjoy sunset over the harbor.)the lights and world-famous sights of Sydney.

(REMINDER: The cruise is partially sponsored by the official travel companies and is only open to those who booked travel with the official agency.) Two special luncheons for which tickets can be purchased are planned during the week: Wednesday will be the HIV/AIDS Ministry luncheon and Friday will be the Ecumenical Witness and Ministry luncheon. The HIV/AIDS ministry luncheon speaker is to be announced and the Ecumenical luncheon speaker will be anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak. Friday evening concludes General Conference with a Closing Dance. The Closing Dance will be a 1940's Hollywood themed big-band dance party anticipating Los Angeles in 1999. Bring your tux or taffeta and your dancing shoes — we'll be fabulous!

You'll also want to see some of the Australian country and native wildlife. Or you may want to take this chance to see islands in the South Pacific. The travel company has

arranged for several special add-on tours and packages which you can do independently or with other MCC'ers. During Conference you can choose a day for a "Cuddle-a-Koala" tour, a walking tour of Sydney or a visit to the scenic Blue Mountains. Before or after General Conference is the ideal time to add-on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef, take a trip to the outback, visit New Zealand, or travel to Fiji. The official travel companies can create the vacation of your dreams in conjunction with your travel to General Conference!

There will never be a better time or a better place to enjoy General Conference than in Sydney this July. Plan now for the Conference vacation of a lifetime and the time of your life!

For more Conference information, or for registration forms, contact UFMCC Headquarters or visit our website at www.ufmcc.com. For more travel information contact: Above and Beyond Tours, 1-800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666.

Travel Tips For AUSTRALIA



Excitement is growing over our first ever UFMCC General Conference in the Pacific Rim July 20-25. To make your trip as comfortable as possible, Nathan Meckley has compiled the following suggestions and information:

1) Obtain your passport and visa now!

All travelers to Australia from other countries must have a valid passport for entry. A passport is obtained from your country of citizenship. In the US, check the US Dept. of State listings for "passport agency." Contact your local listing, call the Washington DC passport agency at 202-647-0518, or, on the Internet, visit <http://www.state.gov/index.html> where there is a passport services page with forms and information which may be downloaded to your computer or printer.

All travelers to Australia (except New Zealand) must have a visa for entry. A visa is obtained free of charge from an Australian consulate, embassy or high commission. Also, most travel agencies should be able to provide assistance. Visa forms, information, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.immi.gov.au/forms/Visiting.htm>. Some travel agencies (including Above and Beyond) will process visas for a small fee.

It can take several weeks to process your passport and visa applications, so if you have not done this yet, begin immediately! You must have your visa before you embark on your flight to Australia. If you do not have a visa upon arrival, you will be refused entry and will be required to fly back to a suitable destination outside Australia (at your own expense) to obtain a visa.

2) July is mid-winter in Australia —

the reverse of the Northern hemisphere. Sydney has very moderate weather, but it may be cool and it might rain. Average July temperatures will range from 50-60° F (10-15° C). The sun's ultraviolet radiation can be intense in Australia. Sunblock and sunglasses are highly recommended. Please pack accordingly.

3) "Keep to the left" is the rule of traffic, both driving and pedestrian. This is the opposite of the US and Canada. Forgetting this can be confusing and dangerous!

4) Vaccinations are not required if you are traveling direct to Australia, unless you have come from or visited a yellow fever infected country or zone within six days prior to arrival. You do not need any other health certification to enter Australia.

5) Health service standards in Australia are high. The Australian health care system does not cover overseas visitors and you will need to pay your own costs for any treatment. Check your personal insurance to assure coverage while you are in Australia. You may also wish to obtain additional travelers health insurance through your travel agency.

6) If you have HIV or AIDS there are no restrictions on travel to Australia. However, if you are currently ill or may require medical treatment, you will need two documents:

- 1) a physician's note stating you are well enough to travel, and
- 2) a certification of adequate medical insurance to cover any hospitalization or treatment. Visitors are permitted to bring reasonable quantities of prescribed (non-narcotic) medication. All should be clearly labeled and identifiable.

7) Australia has its own currency.

You will not be able to use US dollars and coins in Australia. You may exchange foreign currency for Australian currency at any airport, bank, major hotel or currency exchange bureau in major cities. Commonly accepted credit cards are American Express, Bankcard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and their affiliates. Travelers' cheques are readily changed at banks and hotels. Cheques in Australian dollars are recommended. There may

be a small charge for cashing travelers' cheques at some banks. Automatic tellers are available throughout Sydney with access to internationally networked banking systems (such as Interlink, Plus, etc.)

8) Tipping is not compulsory or the general custom in restaurants or elsewhere for standard service. Up to 10% of the bill at better restaurants for good service would be usual. At all times, tipping is optional.

9) When ordering in restaurants, "entree" means the appetizer or starter course, and if ordering a salad, it will commonly be served with the main course rather than before.

10) Australian tap water is safe to drink. Milk is pasteurized. Beer is chilled (and has a higher alcohol content than in the US). Australian wines enjoy an excellent international reputation. Water is not automatically served in most restaurants - you must request it.

11) When riding in a taxi alone, it is considered impolite to sit in the back seat. Be conscious of this difference. If traveling alone sit in the front passenger seat - if there are two or three of you, one should sit in the front.



■ **DOWN UNDER—Above:** Participants at Australia's District Conference. This conference had 100% participation by member churches and delegates.



The Marriage Resolution An Urgent Call To Do Justice

At this moment a fierce and costly war is being waged against lesbians and gays by an army of religious and political zealots. Based on their own antihomosexual reading (or misreading) of the Scriptures, they are determined to rob us of our civil rights. Though we are fighting that war on many fronts, same-gender marriage is the issue du jour that they are using to raise funds and mobilize the nation against us.

From that moment, January 1, 1969, when our founder, Troy Perry, married two gay, Hispanic men in the crowded front room of his little home in Los Angeles, gay/lesbian marriage has been one of our primary issues. We, the people of the UFMCC, believe in loving, loyal, long-term, same-sex relationships. And we are certain that love between women or love between men is as healthy, as right, and as God-ordained as love between a man and a woman. And whatever the courts decide, Troy and the General Council have decided that UFMCC clergy will continue to marry those who ask us (even if we have to break the law or go underground to do it.)

Today, I received an urgent e-mail from Evan Wolfson, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund lawyer who is co-counsel for the Hawaiian couples who are about to win our right to be legally married in Hawaii.

Evan thanked me for what UFMCC has done to help turn back this antisame-sex marriage tide. He asked especially if we would take on the assignment of getting The Marriage Resolution back into circulation at this critical moment in our struggle for justice.

The Marriage Resolution

"Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share

fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage."

Asking people to sign The Marriage Resolution is a wonderful way to change minds and hearts.

Will you help? Our community is under siege. Our national activist organizations are desperate for reinforcements. I have told them that UFMCC people of faith can be counted on to help them do justice on our behalf. Will you consider the following urgent request from our brother to help win justice for God's lesbian and gay children in America?

1. Make up simple petitions copying

The Marriage Resolution (above) followed by blank lines. Collect signatures only. All we want is to help them understand that gay and lesbian couples are denied more than 1,000 rights and protections that go automatically with heterosexual marriage.

2. Enclose a petition in every bulletin

one Sunday soon. Ask everyone in attendance to get signatures family, friends, fellow-workers, neighbors, other churches, clubs, etc. Set a goal for the number of signatures your congregation will try to raise. 1,000? 2,500? 10,000?

3. Ask to have the petitions

returned by Mother's Day, May 11 (or on Father's Day, June 15). On that day, award a UFMCC Certificate of Appreciation to every one who returns a signed petition. We will print the name of your church and the number of signatures you've collected in Keeping In Touch.

Will you also consider the following?

HOLY UNIONS:

Every holy union you perform can help change minds and hearts. With a couple's permission, submit their photo and a brief bio to your local media, including a full page history of your congregation.

If your couple is really brave, send an invitation to your local TV or radio station inviting the media to be present. Offer yourself and each articulate couple to local talk shows or

UFMCC ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN AIDS MINISTRY STAFFING; SALUTES PIETERS AS "INTERNATIONAL PIONEER IN AIDS MINISTRY"

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of UFMCC, recently announced with "great regret" the resignation of the Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters as Director of HIV/AIDS Ministry for the denomination. Pieters plans to pursue new avenues of AIDS ministry, including writing, lecturing and activism.

"Dr. Steve Pieters is the international pioneer in the field of AIDS ministry," said Perry. "He has fulfilled an historic role as the first full-time director of AIDS ministry of any religious denomination, a position he has held for more than ten years. In this role, he has held public policy discussions with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, and represented UFMCC in meetings at the Carter Center, the United Nations and the White House."

Pieters has vigorously served as one of the most recognized faces in the fight against HIV. He has been interviewed by the Los Angeles Sunday Times, Time, Omni, LIFE, and numerous television talk and news shows including CNN Headline News, CBS This Morning, the Tom Snyder Show, America Talks Back, Tammy's House Party (starring Tammy Bakker), and NBC's Real Life with Jane Pauley.

"While we deeply regret the loss of Steve's powerful ministry," said Perry, "we are pleased that he has agreed to continue serving as UFMCC's Director of HIV/AIDS programming through December 31, 1997."

"Steve Pieters has set the highest standards for AIDS ministry and activism. I shall continue to rely upon his advice and wisdom," said Perry. "UFMCC pledges an unswerving commitment to the AIDS community and will continue to explore new and effective avenues of ministry in the changing face of AIDS," Perry added.

"In 1984, I first coined the credo, 'God is greater than AIDS.' What once was a statement of faith is now a known reality. While I continue to grieve for all the wonderful people we've lost, I have learned to look forward to the future with faith and hope."

news broadcasts. Say to your community: "We love each other and we want the world to know it."

ANNIVERSARIES:

Couples who have been together ten, twenty, even fifty and sixty years are the greatest untapped resource we have for combating the false rhetoric about our 'unstable Lifestyle.' whether it's a first anniversary or a fiftieth, make it 'big.' Celebrate publicly. Again, get photos to the newspapers. Let radio and TV talk shows know that you will share your story publicly.

TAKE A STAND IN YOUR

COMMUNITY:

The entire country is talking about this issue. Add your voice. Prepare a press release for your media connections. Speak out at ecumenical and city leadership forums. Remind friends and foes alike that we're not talking about marriage rites, but the rights that go with marriage. Share the truth in love relentlessly.

■ Congratulations to MCC Long Beach, which recently received its conditional use permit for its worship space.

■ St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC, celebrated their 21st anniversary in February with the Rev. Elder Don Eastman as their special guest.

■ The Mountains and Plains District recently welcomed Rev. Judy Gingrich to their district. She is working with a University in Iowa for a student counseling program.

■ Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Fred Williams, pastor of MCC Albuquerque, NM, and his partner of 21 years, Michael Casella, as they have been licensed by the New Mexico Child Placement Agency as the only openly gay couple to receive a child. Their new son, Peter, a sixteen year old gay youth, has joined their family.

■ A group from MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL, spent a long weekend in Puerto Rico helping to paint and decorate the new MCC there.

■ MCC Long Beach, CA, will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on April 19 with special guests which include the Rev. Elder Troy Perry and the Rev. Bob Cunningham, Pastor Emeritus of MCC Long Beach.

■ MCC Detroit, MI, will celebrate their 25th anniversary the weekend of August 16, with special guest the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, former Pastor of MCC Detroit.

■ MCC of the Hudson Valley, Albany, NY, is the latest UFMCC congregation to be accepted into a local Council of Churches. The local Albany newspaper provided an extensive news story on MCC's entry. Thank you to Albany's co-pastors, the Rev. Jill Farnham and the Rev. Karha Us for their leadership.

■ Congratulations to Excel of the Lakes who received the "Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant" award at the last Great Lakes District team meeting. Praises as Excel Europe conducts the first Excel weekend in Hamburg, Germany!

■ Congratulations to Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart, Richmond, VA, who has recently been named as a new member of the Samaritan Board of Trustees.

■ The Rev. David Gillentine has joined the staff~ MCC of Las Vegas, NV, as Associate Pastor. Pastor Gillentine has been clergy in UFMCC for over 20 years and recently was the pastor of MCC of the Pomona Valley, CA.

■ With the blessing of 21 members, St. Barnabas MCC, Macon, GA, inducted its first membership class. The special worship service had 60 people in attendance.

■ In the Great Lakes District the following churches recently celebrated anniversaries:

- * New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH — 23rd anniversary
- * Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL — 22nd anniversary
- * New Creation MCC, Columbus, OH — 19th anniversary
- * Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL — 16th anniversary
- * Lexington's MCC, Lexington, KY — 4th anniversary

■ A New Family: MCC of the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, CA, had its first worship service in March and had a great start with 20 people in attendance. They have people signed up for Bible study and choir rehearsal and are anticipating continued growth.

General Council Meets in LA

The General Council of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) held its semi-annual session in Los Angeles March 1-18, 1997.

During a whirlwind week of meetings and study sessions, General Council tackled a variety of challenging tasks including the drafting of proposed ministry priorities, a new vision and mission statement, implementation of new budgeting procedures as mandated by the 1995 UFMCC General Conference, planning for the upcoming UFMCC General Conference in Australia, and preparation of strategies to reach the denomination's goal of doubling membership in a decade.

At a time when many denominations have experienced plateauing or declining membership, UFMCC continues to experience significant worldwide growth. The denomination is currently comprised of 300 local congregations in 19 countries. With a combined annual budget in excess of \$10 million, the 300 UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly gay and lesbian organization in the world.

General Council also honored Elder Larry Rodriguez who is com-

pleting his final term on the active Board of Elder and his 10th year of ministry as an Elder. He was honored by a luncheon and impromptu Roast," and was presented with several gifts.

Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration, noted that General Council accomplished a significant amount of work on behalf of the denomination. One District Coordinator commented, "This was my most productive Council since I've been a DC." Another added, "I felt like we were taking the lessons learned from earlier Councils and implementing them this time to move our denomination forward."

UFMCC Founder and Moderator Troy Perry noted, "In 1995, I called for UFMCC to embrace the task of doubling our denomination's membership within a decade. The excellent work of General Council this week moves us closer to realizing that goal," he added.

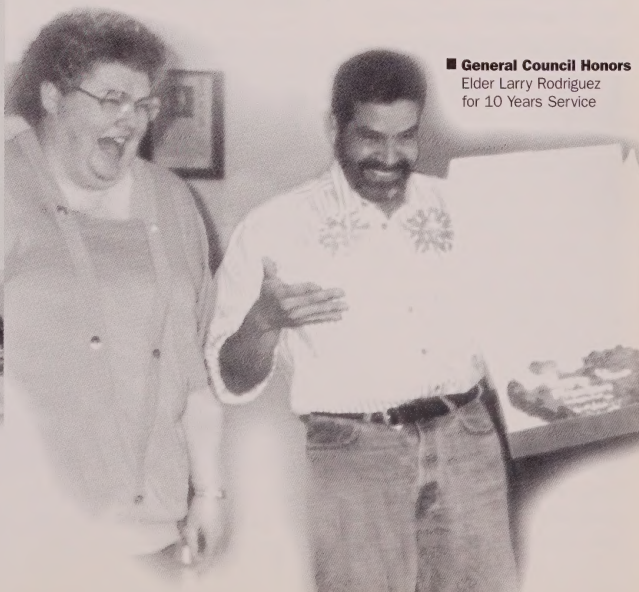
The UFMCC General Council is composed of a Board of Elders as well as the denomination's District Coordinators.

The Council's reports and recommendations will be presented at UFMCC General Conference XVII in Sydney, Australia July 20-25, 1997.

■ General Council Honors Elder Larry Rodriguez for 10 Years Service



■ UFMCC General Council in session





Exciting Stirrings in UFMCC!

Last November, the California Council of

Churches, the oldest and largest US State Council, unanimously voted to admit UFMCC. Dr. Gwynne Guibord, UFMCC Ecumenical Representative, now sits on their Board and the Board of the statewide Interfaith Impact.

Early this year, the Southern California Ecumenical Council, which had turned MCC down years ago, also admitted MCC to its ranks by a unanimous vote. Unlike the California Council, which is known for being a liberal, legislative advocacy organization, the SCEC is a more traditional council including Orthodox churches.

These exciting events made world news for several weeks. Immediately following, we heard the news that MCC Albany had been engaged in a similar process with the Council of Churches in the city of Albany, NY. The local church went through its own education and decision making process after being invited to make application. The service that welcomed MCC into membership was very moving, according to MCC Albany co-pastors the Rev. Jill Farnham and the Rev. Karha Us. At the same time, word has reached us that the New York state Council of Churches recently disbanded and reorganized. In a new model of

ecumenical openness, this council is open to any church that believes it has something to offer and receive by belonging. MCC is in the process of affiliating with this State Council.

We are receiving a lot of news about other similar developments in other locations, and we would like to hear from you if your church is working with a Council of Churches or Ecumenical organization. Do you need advice or help? Let us know about your process or your questions.

Also UFMCC is preparing for our participation in the upcoming World Council of Churches General Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September 1998. This comes at a time when Zimbabwe has received significant news coverage of the anti-gay rhetoric of its President, Robert Mugabe, and an emerging cultural debate. The World Council has been asked by MCC, the United Church of Christ and others to insure that gays and lesbians staffing or attending the General Assembly will not be harassed, and that Council members and observers will be free to express our opinions on a variety of issues, including sexuality.

The Rev. Nancy Wilson will be conducting a workshop at the South Central District Conference on "How To Do Ecumenical Work That Also Helps Your Church Grow!" This workshop will be repeated at General Conference in Sydney, Australia in July.

demic has been declining in San Francisco since 1994. Rofes attributes this to the fact that fewer gay men were infected in the late 1980's than in the early part of the decade.

Through a series of exercises, the facilitators showed, in spite of the declining rates, that "100% safe sex is few people's reality." Studies consistently show that 30-35% of gay men have had unprotected anal intercourse over a 3 month period. Rofes asked us to "own up to the judgments, and get the real information that might change your perspective and behaviors."

In comparing gay men's lives in

■ Prayers are requested for Rev. Jodi Mekkers and Rev. Leslie Addison, both of the Northwest District, both of whom just lost their fathers.

■ The mother of Becky Dickman, pastoral leader of Appalachian MCC in Charleston, WV, who has been critically ill.

■ For Eglise du Saint Esprit MCC, Lafayette, LA, as they search for new worship space after their recent ousting by the Wesley Center.

■ For MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke, VA, and their pastor, the Rev. Bill Rethford, as he announced his resignation effective April 1.

■ Prayers for the family and friends of Gordon A. Fisher, San Diego, CA, who passed away of lung cancer in January. Mr. Fisher was Worship Coordinator of MCC Oceanside, CA, many years ago and was a deacon of MCC Los Angeles, CA in the early years of the church.

■ Prayers requested from the Mountains and Plains District - For Rev. Sharon Sloat, whose grandmother passed away on Feb. 22nd; and for Rev. Charlie Arehart's father who is very ill, and not expected to live more than a few more months.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND RETREATS

■ May 1-4 South Central District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Liaison Elder, and Sr. Pablo Navarro Hernandez, pastoral leader of ICM Christo Sanador, our new MCC in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Theme of the Conference is "Blessed Be The Rock." To be held at The Dallas Grand Hotel, Dallas, TX.

■ May 2-3 Mid-Atlantic District Conference: Special guest Wendy Foxworth, Church Development Consultant. Theme of the Conference is "Leadership 2000: Daring to Go Where No Church Has Gone Before!" To be held at the Ramada Inn, Harrisburg, PA.

■ May 2-4 Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Don Eastman, the Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson, and the Rev. Mick Hinson. Theme of the Conference is "One In The Spirit" To be held at the Clarion Hotel, Chattanooga, TN.

■ May 9-11 Excel in Europe, weekend to be held in London, England

■ May 16-19 District Retreat to be held in Eastern Canada.

■ May 23-27 Mountains & Plains District Conference with guest speaker Tex Sample with the theme of "Other Sheep Have I".

■ May 29-June 1 Great Lakes District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Beth Clark. Theme of the Conference is "Asking God" with focus on local church issues. To be held at French Quarter Holiday Inn, Perysburg, OH.

UFMCC AIDS MINISTRY BY THE REV. STEVE PIETERS, DIRECTOR OF HIV/AIDS MINISTRY



Last month, I attended MCC San Francisco's men's retreat, "HIV Positives and

Negatives Building Community Together." Led by Eric Rofes and Rev. Jim Mitulski, the weekend program encouraged communication among a diverse group of men.

The retreat offered the opportunity to reflect on the "breathing space" we're experiencing as the death rate declines among gay men. Rofes pointed out that the lower death rate is not just a reflection of the use of protease inhibitors. The curve of the epi-

demic has been declining in San Francisco since 1994. Rofes attributes this to the fact that fewer gay men were infected in the late 1980's than in the early part of the decade. Through a series of exercises, the facilitators showed, in spite of the declining rates, that "100% safe sex is few people's reality." Studies consistently show that 30-35% of gay men have had unprotected anal intercourse over a 3 month period. Rofes asked us to "own up to the judgments, and get the real information that might change your perspective and behaviors."

In comparing gay men's lives in the 70's to today's life, the power of storytelling was apparent as we shared our experiences from two decades ago. There was a real sense of passing on important cultural and historic information to younger gay men. We've quickly lost a lot of first-hand knowledge because of AIDS; the possessions and stories of so many gay men of the 70's have been thrown away rather than given to archives, museums, or writers.

Through exercises and discussions about sex, intimacy, gay culture and history, Rofes and Mitulski gave us an exciting and challenging way to build commu-

nity together. We're moving beyond the "crisis" of AIDS into a "breathing space," which allows the opportunity to reflect on what's happened over the past 15 years. In doing this, we are building community in a new way.

I will be working with Eric Rofes and Jim Mitulski to formulate a communitybuilding program for use throughout the Fellowship as we move beyond the crisis mode together. Watch for new resources at General Conference in Sydney.

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to Keeping in Touch, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8640, UFMCC E-mail: ufmcchq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue: 10th of previous month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr., Director of Communications

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev Steve Pieters

GO FISH!

Next time someone

says GO FISH, don't reach for the fishing pole and worms. GO FISH is a new UFMCC program and stands for Global Outreach - Faith In Sharing Hope. It's purpose is to assist Global Outreach in becoming self-sustaining. Here's how it works: Local congregations in Global Outreach areas locate, adapt or produce indigenous products which in turn will be offered for sale to members of UFMCC worldwide. You have an opportunity to purchase unusual products and gifts at competitive

prices—and all proceeds assist UFMCC's Global Outreach's growing ministry around the world.

GO FISH will be publicly launched at the UFMCC South Central District Conference in Dallas, TX May 1

-4, 1997. Products will

be available from Puerto Rico (I CM Cristo

Sanador) and Mexico (ICM

de Tijuana, ICM Guadalejara, ICM Santa Cruz, ICM Christo Amigo, ICM Renovacion and ICM Reconciliacion).

One of GO FISH's first products is a gourmet coffee grown and roasted in Puerto Rico (see photo). Puerto Rican coffee is a rich, full-bodied coffee that is prized around the world. In fact, Puerto Rico is the

world's only supplier of coffee for the Vatican.

The coffee is available in sealed aluminum pouches for \$10 per

bag by sending a check or money order to ICM Cristo Sanador, Calle Sol 204, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901.

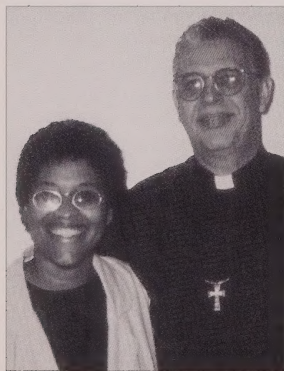
Look for GO FISH displays at other upcoming district conferences and at General Conference XVIII in Australia. Future plans call for a GO FISH mail order catalog as well as retail outlets.



GLOBAL OUTREACH THE REV. JUDY DAHL, DIRECTOR



ICM Cristo Sanador. Five members from MCC of the Incarnation (MCCI), including the pastor, the Rev. Bradley Mickleson, recently visited our newest Global Outreach congregation, ICM Cristo Sanador in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. They met with members of the church and assisted with light carpentry and the cleaning of their new worship space. Pastor Mickleson also led a church growth and development workshop for ICM leaders. On Sunday, the members of MCCI participated in the morning worship service where they found a warm welcome. Cynthia Marquard, MCCI Outreach Coordinator noted, "We were especially touched by experiencing the world from the viewpoint of a linguistic minority." ICM Cristo Sanador has two co-pastors, Pablo Navarro Hernandez and Margarita Sanchez De Leon, picture here. This church is blessed to have two gifted pastoral leaders with long histories of work and involvement in Puerto Rico. Both Margarita and Pablo are candidates for UFMCC clergy ordination.



■ **ICM** Cristo Sanador Co-Pastors Margarita Sanchez De Leon and Pablo Navarro Hernandez

Congratulations to Registration Winners!

The General Conference XVIII Registration Lottery has happened and we have 3 very excited winners. Congratulations to all three lucky winners who were chosen through a drawing at the March General Council meeting. These three people have received free registration to General Conference in Sydney, Australia. The winners are:

Mr. David Sorey, Denver, CO
Ms. Myra Marshall, Grand Rapids, MI
Mr. Richard Murphy, Miami, Florida

Tysis Insert in March KIT

Last month's Keeping in Touch had a beautiful, full color advertisement insert of pride jewelry by Tysis, Inc. Tysis is donating 30% of its sales from this insert to UFMCC ministries. This is a wonderful way to purchase beautiful, meaningful gifts and to assist UFMCC ministries at the same time.

The newest and most timely AIDS resource available today!

*So, You're
Going to Live
FACING LIFE...
AFTER FACING DEATH*

A new brochure by Rev. A. Stephen Pieters
Director of UFMCC HIV/AIDS Ministry
and one of the World's
Longest Surviving Persons with AIDS.

10 Practical Life-Affirming Steps
For Living With AIDS At A Time
When PWA's Are Living Longer
and Healthier Lives.

An excellent, hope filled resource for
churches, community centers,
study groups, therapists and counselors.

20 cents each

Contact UFMCC Resource Center
8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Tel: (310) 360-8640
Fax: (310) 360-8680



■ **Members of MCC** of Incarnation. Front row, left to right: John, Darlene, Pastor Bradley Mickleson, Pablo Navarro, Cynthia. Second row: Gail, Ada.



Want to continue your education

for ministry, expanding your horizons and

building your skills? Looking for the seminary, college or graduate school that's right for you?

Wondering where to start? We recently asked all accredited seminaries in the United States and Canada if they accepted openly lesbian/gay/ bisexual and transgendered students. For a list of those that responded positively, call the Director of Clergy Development, the Rev. Maggie Tanis, at Fellowship headquarters. The list is free to all; just ask! Or check out one of these educational guides:

For world wide listings, check out the International Handbook of Universities and the World List of Universities/Liste Mondiale des Universites both published by the International Association of Universities (New York: Stockton Press). On the web, your best bet is Yahoo's college guide at <http://www.yahoo.com/Education/Universities>. This site also includes links to other international guides, such as the Global University Web. Yahoo lists all countries represented in the UFMCC with the exception of Nigeria. So, it's the spot to find that Christian Ethics course in Pretoria . . . and much more!

The European Universities

Continuing Education Network lists programs on the web at <http://www.fe.up.pt/eucen> while the International Centre for Distance Learning (iCDL) can help you find opportunities to learn from afar. They can be reached at: The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom, by phone at +44 1908 653537 or by e-mail at icdl-enquiries@open.ac.uk.

In Australia, check out The Good Universities Guide, available in book format and on the world wide web at <http://www.washmil.com.au/>

In the United States, look for Peterson's Guide to Colleges and Universities (Princeton, New Jersey). Peterson's publishes many volumes of information, including ones for undergraduate and graduate studies (look for "theology" in the volume of graduate schools in the humanities). They also publish the Peterson's Guide to Distance Learning for those who are looking for correspondence courses and The Virtual College, by Pam Dixon, for classes taught through the Internet. All of these can commonly be found at the reference desk of your public library. Peterson's website can be found at <http://www.peterson's.com>. The College Board website also has useful information; find them at <http://www/collegeboard.org>.

■ **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** of Greater St. Louis, Missouri, a chartered UFMCC church since 1974, announces a pastoral vacancy effective March 20, 1997. Located in a large metropolitan area, MCC St. Louis serves a diverse population. MCC St. Louis' active membership is in excess of 100, with two Sunday worship services to serve the community. We are an energetic, growing congregation seeking to employ a Senior Pastor.

Interested clergy please respond to: MCC of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P. O. Box 13410, St. Louis, MO 63138-0410

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■ **BROKERS NEEDED** Full, part time. Excellent commissions & training. Own your business and help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information.

■ **VEUX CARRE' MCC** of New Orleans seeks administrator for a day center. Must have excellent administrative skills and HIV awareness. Send letters of interest to the Rev. Dexter Brecht, 1128 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans, LA 70117.

■ **24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE** is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX 415-864-0406.

■ **ATTENTION Gay Servicemembers!** Know your legal rights: Say nothing, Sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

■ **Wanted: Experienced Christ-centered pianist** to play for Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday night ensemble and choir rehearsals, and special services as needed. Must be an excellent sight reader, willing to work as part of a team, and have skills in basic improvisation. Excellent salary for this position. If you meet these qualifications, please call the MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas at (713) 861-9149.

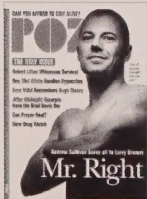
■ **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY** sought by MCC Washington. Full time position. Starting salary in the mid-20's with benefits. Degree in music preferred. Please send a letter of interest by April 30th to: MCC-DC, 474 Ridge Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001. FAX: 202-638-4048.

■ **MCC EDMONTON** is presently conducting a pastoral search: The position presently is quarter-time with \$650.00 CDN per month compensation. We hope to increase this to half-time with increased membership. April, 1997 is deadline for submissions. Contact: Pastoral Search, c/o MCC Edmonton, Unit 151, 10342 - 107th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 1 K2.

■ **WANTED for MCC London UK**, Part time yet 100% committed PASTOR. We seek a team builder and leader who will work with us to develop a mature and liberated Christian community. Application by cv. Closing date Friday 16th May. For further details and a job pack contact: Sarah Corlett, 47 Corrance Rd, London UK, SW2 5RD. Tele: (0)171 737 0770 or RWFHA@compuserve.com.

■ **MUSIC Director, Part-Time** Keyboard and conducting experience required. Select and coordinate music. Responsible for directing choir practice and Sunday am and pm services. Send resume to: Harvest MCC S. Stemmons, Denton TX 76205 E-mail to Harvestmcc@aol.com or fax to (817) 321-2337.

UFMCCer's Featured In April POZ Magazine



Two members of the UFMCC leadership received coverage in the April issue of the internationally distributed POZ magazine. Rev. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice, has a feature article on page 64 entitled "The Cheshire Cat," which warns of hypocrisy by many "AIDS ministries."

And the Rev. Stephen Pieters, Director of UFMCC HIV/AIDS Ministry, receives recognition for the quality of his advice to PWAs over the Internet in the column CyperPOZ on page 52. Among Internet advice givers, POZ salutes Pieters for giving "the most cogent and challenging advice...there is an authentic ring to his counsel...the sincerity and solace of a participating witness..."



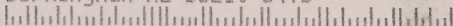
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CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes - February 1997

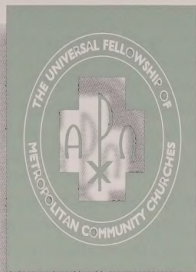
1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$3,606.77
2. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA \$2,234.29
3. MCC Washington, Washington, DC 2,221.22
4. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL \$1,792.37
5. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA \$1,580.13
6. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA \$1,561.95
7. MCC New York, New York City, NY \$1,472.94
8. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO \$1,393.74
9. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL \$1,316.19
10. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL \$1,250.48
11. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL \$1,198.61
12. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA \$1,092.46
13. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC \$1,080.85
14. River City MCC, Sacramento, CA \$1,073.22
15. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC \$1,026.99
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS \$991.80
17. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX \$978.82
18. Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA \$953.67
19. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA \$901.66
20. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC \$873.97

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita - February 1997

1. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO \$81.93
2. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS \$46.11
3. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY \$44.42
4. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO \$43.59
5. MCC Glendale, Glendale, CA \$37.12
6. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA \$32.51
7. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA \$28.55
8. Eglise du Saint Esprit, Lafayette, LA \$28.24
9. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL \$26.52
10. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA \$26.14
11. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL \$25.61
12. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$24.14
13. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA \$23.23
14. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN \$22.32
15. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley, CA \$22.16
16. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL \$22.05
17. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC \$21.31
18. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT \$20.92
19. MCC Huntsville, Huntsville, AL \$20.85
20. New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH \$20.85

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

April 1997

Making the Most Out of General Conference in Australia

UFMCC General Conference is always an exciting experience! Transformative worship, informative workshops, exciting special speakers, important business, networking and fun with hundreds of MCC'ers from around the world make every General Conference thrilling. This

COVER STORY NATHAN MECKLEY

will be true July 20-25, in Sydney, Australia. But this will also be a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed!

First, you should plan on having a good time. Australians and "Sydneyiders" have a well earned reputation for being hospitable and fun-loving. Most MCC'ers will be staying in or near the central gay/lesbian area of Sydney with plenty of restaurants, shops and clubs. (Remember, if you're coming from the US, it's your turn to be the one with a charming accent!) Also, since seasons are reversed on the other side of the equator, this July will be the first mid-winter UFMCC General Conference. Temperatures will range from 10 to 16° (Don't worry, that's Celsius. It will be about 50 to 60° Fahrenheit.)

Beyond these unique qualities, if you are going all the way to Australia you should be making the most of the trip. Included in the Conference schedule are several planned activities. An Opening Reception will follow the Rally on Sunday, July 20. The opening reception is a always a great chance to meet and re-connect with MCC friends. At this event, we will also honor Elder Larry Rodriguez who concludes his term of active ser-

vice on the Board of Elders in July. On Wednesday late afternoon we are off for a cruise around Sydney Harbour!

The city of Sydney is built around a lovely harbor and one of the best ways to view this beautiful city is on a catamaran cruise. We will enjoy sunset over the harbor, the lights and world-famous sights of Sydney.

(REMINDER: The cruise is partially sponsored by the official travel companies and is only open to those who booked travel with the official agency.) Two special luncheons for which tickets can be purchased are planned during the week: Wednesday will be the HIV/AIDS Ministry luncheon and Friday will be the Ecumenical Witness and Ministry luncheon. The HIV/AIDS ministry luncheon speaker is to be announced and the Ecumenical luncheon speaker will be anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak. Friday evening concludes General Conference with a Closing Dance. The Closing Dance will be a 1940's Hollywood themed big-band dance party anticipating Los Angeles in 1999. Bring your tux or taffeta and your dancing shoes — we'll be fabulous!

You'll also want to see some of the Australian country and native wildlife. Or you may want to take this chance to see islands in the South Pacific. The travel company has

arranged for several special add-on tours and packages which you can do independently or with other MCC'ers. During Conference you can choose a day for a "Cuddle-a-Koala" tour, a walking tour of Sydney or a visit to the scenic Blue Mountains. Before or after General Conference is the ideal time to add-on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef, take a trip to the outback, visit New Zealand, or travel to Fiji. The official travel companies can create the vacation of your dreams in conjunction with your travel to General Conference!

There will never be a better time or a better place to enjoy General Conference than in Sydney this July. Plan now for the Conference vacation of a lifetime and the time of your life!

For more Conference information, or for registration forms, contact UFMCC Headquarters or visit our website at www.ufmcc.com. For more travel information contact: Above and Beyond Tours, 1-800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666.

Travel Tips For AUSTRALIA



Excitement is growing over our first ever UFMCC General Conference in the Pacific Rim July 20-25. To make your trip as comfortable as possible, Nathan Meckley has compiled the following suggestions and information:

1) Obtain your passport and visa now!

All travelers to Australia from other countries must have a valid passport for entry. A passport is obtained from your country of citizenship. In the US, check the US Dept. of State listings for "passport agency." Contact your local listing, call the Washington DC passport agency at 202-647-0518, or, on the Internet, visit <http://www.state.gov/index.html> where there is a passport services page with forms and information which may be downloaded to your computer or printer.

All travelers to Australia (except New Zealand) must have a visa for entry. A visa is obtained free of charge from an Australian consulate, embassy or high commission. Also, most travel agencies should be able to provide assistance. Visa forms, information, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.immi.gov.au/forms/Visiting.htm>. Some travel agencies (including Above and Beyond) will process visas for a small fee.

It can take several weeks to process your passport and visa applications, so if you have not done this yet, begin immediately! You must have your visa before you embark on your flight to Australia. If you do not have a visa upon arrival, you will be refused entry and will be required to fly back to a suitable destination outside Australia (at your own expense) to obtain a visa.

2) July is mid-winter in Australia —

the reverse of the Northern hemisphere. Sydney has very moderate weather, but it may be cool and it might rain. Average July temperatures will range from 50-60° F (10-15° C). The sun's ultraviolet radiation can be intense in Australia. Sunblock and sunglasses are highly recommended. Please pack accordingly.

3) "Keep to the left" is the rule of traffic, both driving and pedestrian. This is the opposite of the US and Canada. Forgetting this can be confusing and dangerous!

4) Vaccinations are not required if you are traveling direct to Australia, unless you have come from or visited a yellow fever infected country or zone within six days prior to arrival. You do not need any other health certification to enter Australia.

5) Health service standards in Australia are high. The Australian health care system does not cover overseas visitors and you will need to pay your own costs for any treatment. Check your personal insurance to assure coverage while you are in Australia. You may also wish to obtain additional travelers health insurance through your travel agency.

6) If you have HIV or AIDS there are no restrictions on travel to Australia. However, if you are currently ill or may require medical treatment, you will need two documents:

- 1) a physician's note stating you are well enough to travel, and
- 2) a certification of adequate medical insurance to cover any hospitalization or treatment. Visitors are permitted to bring reasonable quantities of prescribed (non-narcotic) medication. All should be clearly labeled and identifiable.

7) Australia has its own currency.

You will not be able to use US dollars and coins in Australia. You may exchange foreign currency for Australian currency at any airport, bank, major hotel or currency exchange bureau in major cities. Commonly accepted credit cards are American Express, Bankcard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and their affiliates. Travelers' cheques are readily changed at banks and hotels. Cheques in Australian dollars are recommended. There may

be a small charge for cashing travelers' cheques at some banks. Automatic tellers are available throughout Sydney with access to internationally networked banking systems (such as Interlink, Plus, etc.)

8) Tipping is not compulsory or the general custom in restaurants or elsewhere for standard service. Up to 10% of the bill at better restaurants for good service would be usual. At all times, tipping is optional.

9) When ordering in restaurants, "entree" means the appetizer or starter course, and if ordering a salad, it will commonly be served with the main course rather than before.

10) Australian tap water is safe to drink. Milk is pasteurized. Beer is chilled (and has a higher alcohol content than in the US). Australian wines enjoy an excellent international reputation. Water is not automatically served in most restaurants - you must request it.

11) When riding in a taxi alone, it is considered impolite to sit in the back seat. Be conscious of this difference. If traveling alone sit in the front passenger seat - if there are two or three of you, one should sit in the front.



■ DOWN UNDER—Above: Participants at Australia's District Conference. This conference had 100% participation by member churches and delegates.



The Marriage Resolution An Urgent Call To Do Justice

At this moment a fierce and costly war is being waged against lesbians and gays by an army of religious and political zealots. Based on their own antihomosexual reading (or misreading) of the Scriptures, they are determined to rob us of our civil rights. Though we are fighting that war on many fronts, same-gender marriage is the issue du jour that they are using to raise funds and mobilize the nation against us.

From that moment, January 1, 1969, when our founder, Troy Perry, married two gay, Hispanic men in the crowded front room of his little home in Los Angeles, gay/lesbian marriage has been one of our primary issues. We, the people of the UFMCC, believe in loving, loyal, long-term, same-sex relationships. And we are certain that love between women or love between men is as healthy, as right, and as God-ordained as love between a man and a woman. And whatever the courts decide, Troy and the General Council have decided that UFMCC clergy will continue to marry those who ask us (even if we have to break the law or go underground to do it.)

Today, I received an urgent e-mail from Evan Wolfson, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund lawyer who is co-counsel for the Hawaiian couples who are about to win our right to be legally married in Hawaii.

Evan thanked me for what UFMCC has done to help turn back this antisame-sex marriage tide. He asked especially if we would take on the assignment of getting The Marriage Resolution back into circulation at this critical moment in our struggle for justice.

The Marriage Resolution

"Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share

fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage."

Asking people to sign The Marriage Resolution is a wonderful way to change minds and hearts.

Will you help? Our community is under siege. Our national activist organizations are desperate for reinforcements. I have told them that UFMCC people of faith can be counted on to help them do justice on our behalf. Will you consider the following urgent request from our brother to help win justice for God's lesbian and gay children in America?

1. Make up simple petitions copying

The Marriage Resolution (above) followed by blank lines. Collect signatures only. All we want is to help them understand that gay and lesbian couples are denied more than 1,000 rights and protections that go automatically with heterosexual marriage.

2. Enclose a petition in every bulletin one Sunday soon. Ask everyone

in attendance to get signatures family, friends, fellow-workers, neighbors, other churches, clubs, etc. Set a goal for the number of signatures your congregation will try to raise. 1,000? 2,500? 10,000?

3. Ask to have the petitions

returned by Mother's Day, May 11 (or on Father's Day, June 15). On that day, award a UFMCC Certificate of Appreciation to every one who returns a signed petition. We will print the name of your church and the number of signatures you've collected in Keeping In Touch.

Will you also consider the following?

HOLY UNIONS:

Every holy union you perform can help change minds and hearts. With a couple's permission, submit their photo and a brief bio to your local media, including a full page history of your congregation.

If your couple is really brave, send an invitation to your local TV or radio station inviting the media to be present. Offer yourself and each articulate couple to local talk shows or

UFMCC ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN AIDS MINISTRY STAFFING; SALUTES PIETERS AS "INTERNATIONAL PIONEER IN AIDS MINISTRY"

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of UFMCC, recently announced with "great regret" the resignation of the Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters as Director of HIV/AIDS Ministry for the denomination. Pieters plans to pursue new avenues of AIDS ministry, including writing, lecturing and activism.

"Dr. Steve Pieters is the international pioneer in the field of AIDS ministry," said Perry. "He has fulfilled an historic role as the first full-time director of AIDS ministry of any religious denomination, a position he has held for more than ten years. In this role, he has held public policy discussions with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, and represented UFMCC in meetings at the Carter Center, the United Nations and the White House."

Pieters has vigorously served as one of the most recognized faces in the fight against HIV. He has been interviewed by the Los Angeles Sunday Times, Time, Omni, LIFE, and numerous television talk and news shows including CNN Headline News, CBS This Morning, the Tom Snyder Show, America Talks Back, Tammy's House Party (starring Tammy Bakker), and NBC's Real Life with Jane Pauley.

"While we deeply regret the loss of Steve's powerful ministry," said Perry, "we are pleased that he has agreed to continue serving as UFMCC's Director of HIV/AIDS programming through December 31, 1997."

"Steve Pieters has set the highest standards for AIDS ministry and activism. I shall continue to rely upon his advice and wisdom," said Perry. "UFMCC pledges an unswerving commitment to the AIDS community and will continue to explore new and effective avenues of ministry in the changing face of AIDS," Perry added.

"In 1984, I first coined the credo, 'God is greater than AIDS.' What once was a statement of faith is now a known reality. While I continue to grieve for all the wonderful people we've lost, I have learned to look forward to the future with faith and hope."

news broadcasts. Say to your community: "We love each other and we want the world to know it."

ANNIVERSARIES:

Couples who have been together ten, twenty, even fifty and sixty years are the greatest untapped resource we have for combating the false rhetoric about our 'unstable Lifestyle.' whether it's a first anniversary or a fiftieth, make it 'big.' Celebrate publicly. Again, get photos to the newspapers. Let radio and TV talk shows know that you will share your story publicly.

TAKE A STAND IN YOUR

COMMUNITY:

The entire country is talking about this issue. Add your voice. Prepare a press release for your media connections. Speak out at ecumenical and city leadership forums. Remind friends and foes alike that we're not talking about marriage rites, but the rights that go with marriage. Share the truth in love relentlessly.

■ Congratulations to MCC Long Beach, which recently received its conditional use permit for its worship space.

■ St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC, celebrated their 21st anniversary in February with the Rev. Elder Don Eastman as their special guest.

■ The Mountains and Plans District recently welcomed Rev. Judy Gingrich to their district. She is working with a University in Iowa for a student counseling program.

■ Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Fred Williams, pastor of MCC Albuquerque, NM, and his partner of 21 years, Michael Casella, as they have been licensed by the New Mexico Child Placement Agency as the only openly gay couple to receive a child. Their new son, Peter, a sixteen year old gay youth, has joined their family.

■ A group from MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL, spent a long weekend in Puerto Rico helping to paint and decorate the new MCC there.

■ MCC Long Beach, CA, will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on April 19 with special guests which include the Rev. Elder Troy Perry and the Rev. Bob Cunningham, Pastor Emeritus of MCC Long Beach.

■ MCC Detroit, MI, will celebrate their 25th anniversary the weekend of August 16, with special guest the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, former Pastor of MCC Detroit.

■ MCC of the Hudson Valley, Albany, NY, is the latest UFMCC congregation to be accepted into a local Council of Churches. The local Albany newspaper provided an extensive news story on MCC's entry. Thank you to Albany's co-pastors, the Rev. Jill Farnham and the Rev. Karha Us for their leadership.

■ Congraulations to Excel of the Lakes who received the "Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant" award at the last Great Lakes District team meeting. Praises as Excel Europe conducts the first Excel weekend in Hamburg, Germany!

■ Congratulations to Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart, Richmond, VA, who has recently been named as a new member of the Samaritan Board of Trustees.

■ The Rev. David Gillentine has joined the staff-- MCC of Las Vegas, NV, as Associate Pastor. Pastor Gillentine has been clergy in UFMCC for over 20 years and recently was the pastor of MCC of the Pomona Valley, CA.

■ With the blessing of 21 members, St. Barnabas MCC, Macon, GA, inducted its first membership class. The special worship service had 60 people in attendance.

■ In the Great Lakes District the following churches recently celebrated anniversaries:

- * New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH — 23rd anniversary
- * Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL — 22nd anniversary
- * New Creation MCC, Columbus, OH — 19th anniversary
- * Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL — 16th anniversary
- * Lexington's MCC, Lexington, KY — 4th anniversary

■ A New Family: MCC of the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, CA, had its first worship service in March and had a great start with 20 people in attendance. They have people signed up for Bible study and choir rehearsal and are anticipating continued growth.

General Council Meets in LA

The General Council of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) held its semi-annual session in Los Angeles March 1 1-18, 1997.

During a whirlwind week of meetings and study sessions, General Council tackled a variety of challenging tasks including the drafting of proposed ministry priorities, a new vision and mission statement, implementation of new budgeting procedures as mandated by the 1995 UFMCC General Conference, planning for the upcoming UFMCC General Conference in Australia, and preparation of strategies to reach the denomination's goal of doubling membership in a decade.

At a time when many denominations have experienced plateauing or declining membership, UFMCC continues to experience significant worldwide growth. The denomination is currently comprised of 300 local congregations in 19 countries. With a combined annual budget in excess of \$10 million, the 300 UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly gay and lesbian organization in the world.

General Council also honored Elder Larry Rodriguez who is com-

pleting his final term on the active Board of Elder and his 10th year of ministry as an Elder. He was honored by a luncheon and impromptu Roast," and was presented with several gifts.

Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration, noted that General Council accomplished a significant amount of work on behalf of the denomination. One District Coordinator commented, "This was my most productive Council since I've been a DC." Another added, "I felt like we were taking the lessons learned from earlier Councils and implementing them this time to move our denomination forward."

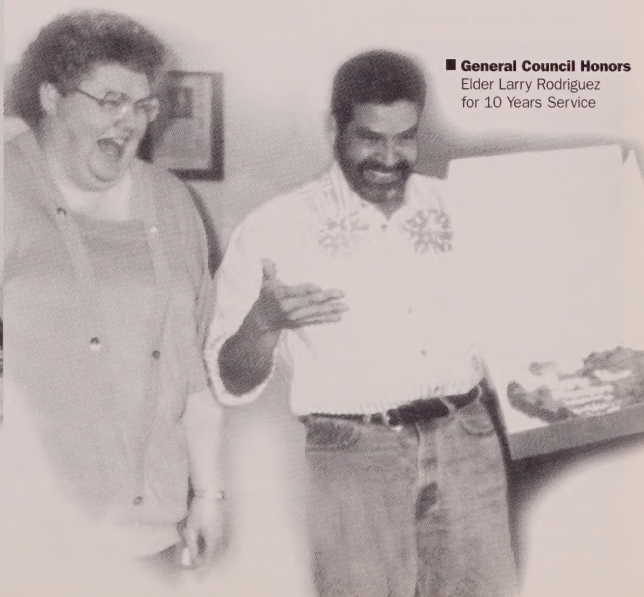
UFMCC Founder and Moderator Troy Perry noted, "In 1995, I called for UFMCC to embrace the task of doubling our denomination's membership within a decade. The excellent work of General Council this week moves us closer to realizing that goal," he added.

The UFMCC General Council is composed of a Board of Elders as well as the denomination's District Coordinators.

The Council's reports and recommendations will be presented at UFMCC General Conference XVII in Sydney, Australia July 20-25, 1997.

■ **General Council Honors**
Elder Larry Rodriguez
for 10 Years Service

■ UFMCC General Council in session





Exciting Stirrings in UFMCC!

Last November, the California Council of

Churches, the oldest and largest US State Council, unanimously voted to admit UFMCC. Dr. Gwynne Guibord, UFMCC Ecumenical Representative, now sits on their Board and the Board of the statewide Interfaith Impact.

Early this year, the Southern California Ecumenical Council, which had turned MCC down years ago, also admitted MCC to its ranks by a unanimous vote. Unlike the California Council, which is known for being a liberal, legislative advocacy organization, the SCEC is a more traditional council including Orthodox churches.

These exciting events made world news for several weeks. Immediately following, we heard the news that MCC Albany had been engaged in a similar process with the Council of Churches in the city of Albany, NY. The local church went through its own education and decision making process after being invited to make application. The service that welcomed MCC into membership was very moving, according to MCC Albany co-pastors the Rev. Jill Farnham and the Rev. Karla Us. At the same time, word has reached us that the New York state Council of Churches recently disbanded and reorganized. In a new model of

ecumenical openness, this council is open to any church that believes it has something to offer and receive by belonging. MCC is in the process of affiliating with this State Council.

We are receiving a lot of news about other similar developments in other locations, and we would like to hear from you if your church is working with a Council of Churches or Ecumenical organization. Do you need advice or help? Let us know about your process or your questions.

Also UFMCC is preparing for our participation in the upcoming World Council of Churches General Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September 1998. This comes at a time when Zimbabwe has received significant news coverage of the anti-gay rhetoric of its President, Robert Mugabe, and an emerging cultural debate. The World Council has been asked by MCC, the United Church of Christ and others to insure that gays and lesbians staffing or attending the General Assembly will not be harassed, and that Council members and observers will be free to express our opinions on a variety of issues, including sexuality.

The Rev. Nancy Wilson will be conducting a workshop at the South Central District Conference on "How To Do Ecumenical Work That Also Helps Your Church Grow!" This workshop will be repeated at General Conference in Sydney, Australia in July.

UFMCC AIDS MINISTRY BY THE REV. STEVE PIETERS, DIRECTOR OF HIV/AIDS MINISTRY



Last month, I attended MCC San Francisco's men's retreat, "HIV Positives and

Negatives Building Community Together." Led by Eric Rofes and Rev. Jim Mitulski, the weekend program encouraged communication among a diverse group of men.

The retreat offered the opportunity to reflect on the "breathing space" we're experiencing as the death rate declines among gay men. Rofes pointed out that the lower death rate is not just a reflection of the use of protease inhibitors. The curve of the epi-

demic has been declining in San Francisco since 1994. Rofes attributes this to the fact that fewer gay men were infected in the late 1980's than in the early part of the decade.

Through a series of exercises, the facilitators showed, in spite of the declining rates, that "100% safe sex is few people's reality." Studies consistently show that 30-35% of gay men have had unprotected anal intercourse over a 3 month period. Rofes asked us to "own up to the judgments, and get the real information that might change your perspective and behaviors."

In comparing gay men's lives in

PRAYERS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

■ Prayers are requested for Rev. Jodi Mekkers and Rev. Leslie Addison, both of the Northwest District, both of whom just lost their fathers.

■ The mother of Becky Dickman, pastoral leader of Appalachian MCC in Charleston, WV, who has been critically ill.

■ For Eglise du Saint Esprit MCC, Lafayette, LA, as they search for new worship space after their recent ousting by the Wesley Center.

■ For MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke, VA, and their pastor, the Rev. Bill Rethford, as he announced his resignation effective April 1.

■ Prayers for the family and friends of Gordon A. Fisher, San Diego, CA, who passed away of lung cancer in January. Mr. Fisher was Worship Coordinator of MCC Oceanside, CA, many years ago and was a deacon of MCC Los Angeles, CA in the early years of the church.

■ Prayers requested from the Mountains and Plains District - For Rev. Sharon Sloat, whose grandmother passed away on Feb. 22nd; and for Rev. Charlie Arehart's father who is very ill, and not expected to live more than a few more months.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND RETREATS

■ May 1-4 South Central District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Liaison Elder, and Sr. Pablo Navarro Hernandez, pastoral leader of JCM Christo Sanador, our new MCC in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Theme of the Conference is "Blessed Be The Rock." To be held at The Dallas Grand Hotel, Dallas, TX.

■ May 2-3 Mid-Atlantic District Conference: Special guest Wendy Foxworth, Church Development Consultant. Theme of the Conference is "Leadership 2000: Daring to Go Where No Church Has Gone Before!" To be held at the Ramada Inn, Harrisburg, PA.

■ May 2-4 Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Don Eastman, the Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson, and the Rev. Mick Hinson. Theme of the Conference is "One In The Spirit" To be held at the Clarion Hotel, Chattanooga, TN.

■ May 9-11 Excel in Europe, weekend to be held in London, England

■ May 16-19 District Retreat to be held in Eastern Canada.

■ May 23-27 Mountains & Plains District Conference with guest speaker Tex Sample with the theme of "Other Sheep Have I".

■ May 29-June 1 Great Lakes District Conference: Special guests the Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Beth Clark. Theme of the Conference is "Asking God" with focus on local church issues. To be held at French Quarter Holiday Inn, Perrysburg, OH.

the 70's to today's life, the power of storytelling was apparent as we shared our experiences from two decades ago. There was a real sense of passing on important cultural and historic information to younger gay men. We've quickly lost a lot of first-hand knowledge because of AIDS; the possessions and stories of so many gay men of the 70's have been thrown away rather than given to archives, museums, or writers.

Through exercises and discussions about sex, intimacy, gay culture and history, Rofes and Mitulski gave us an exciting and challenging way to build commu-

nity together. We're moving beyond the "crisis" of AIDS into a "breathing space," which allows the opportunity to reflect on what's happened over the past 15 years. In doing this, we are building community in a new way.

I will be working with Eric Rofes and Jim Mitulski to formulate a communitybuilding program for use throughout the Fellowship as we move beyond the crisis mode together. Watch for new resources at General Conference in Sydney.

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to Keeping in Touch, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8640, UFMCC E-mail: ufmccqh@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue: 10th of previous month.

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Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev Steve Pieters

GO FISH!

Next time someone

says GO FISH, don't reach for the fishing pole and worms. GO FISH is a new UFMCC program and stands for Global Outreach - Faith In Sharing Hope. It's purpose is to assist Global Outreach in becoming self-sustaining. Here's how it works: Local congregations in Global Outreach areas locate, adapt or produce indigenous products which in turn will be offered for sale to members of UFMCC worldwide. You have an opportunity to purchase unusual products and gifts at competitive

prices—and all proceeds assist UFMCC's Global Outreach's growing ministry around the world.

GO FISH will be publicly launched at the UFMCC South Central District Conference in Dallas, TX May 1-4, 1997. Products will be available from Puerto Rico (I CM Cristo Sanador) and Mexico (ICM

de Tijuana, ICM Guadalejara, ICM Santa Cruz, ICM Christo Amigo, ICM Renovacion and ICM Reconciliacion). One of GO FISH's first products is a gourmet coffee grown and roasted in Puerto Rico (see photo). Puerto Rican coffee is a rich, full-bodied coffee that is prized around the world. In fact, Puerto Rico is the world's only supplier of coffee for the Vatican. The coffee is available in sealed aluminum pouches for \$10 per bag by sending a check or money order to ICM Cristo Sanador, Calle Sol 204, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901.

Look for GO FISH displays at other upcoming district conferences and at General Conference XVIII in Australia. Future plans call for a GO FISH mail order catalog as well as retail outlets.

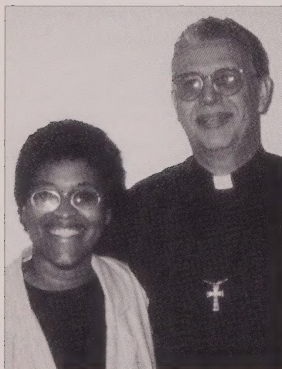


GLOBAL OUTREACH THE REV. JUDY DAHL, DIRECTOR



ICM Cristo Sanador, Five members from MCC of the Incarnation (MCCI), including the pastor, the Rev. Bradley Mickleson, recently visited our newest Global Outreach congregation, ICM Cristo Sanador in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. They met with members of the church and assisted with light carpentry and the cleaning of

their new worship space. Pastor Mickleson also led a church growth and development workshop for ICM leaders. On Sunday, the members of MCCI participated in the morning worship service where they found a warm welcome. Cynthia Marquard, MCCI Outreach Coordinator noted, "We were especially touched by experiencing the world from the viewpoint of a linguistic minority." ICM Cristo Sanador has two co-pastors, Pablo Navarro Hernandez and Margarita Sanchez De Leon, picture here. This church is blessed to have two gifted pastoral leaders with long histories of work and involvement in Puerto Rico. Both Margarita and Pablo are candidates for UFMCC clergy ordination.



■ **ICM** Cristo Sador Co-Pastors Margarita Sanchez De Leon and Pablo Navarro Hernandez

Congratulations to Registration Winners!

The General Conference XVIII Registration Lottery has happened and we have 3 very excited winners. Congratulations to all three lucky winners who were chosen through a drawing at the March General Council meeting. These three people have received free registration to General Conference in Sydney, Australia. The winners are:

Mr. David Sorey, Denver, CO
Ms. Myra Marshall, Grand Rapids, MI
Mr. Richard Murphy, Miami, Florida

Tysis Insert in March KIT

Last month's Keeping in Touch had a beautiful, full color advertisement insert of pride jewelry by Tysis, Inc. Tysis is donating 30% of its sales from this insert to UFMCC ministries. This is a wonderful way to purchase beautiful, meaningful gifts and to assist UFMCC ministries at the same time.

The newest and most timely AIDS resource available today!

*So, You're
Going to Live
FACING LIFE...
AFTER FACING DEATH*

A new brochure by Rev. A. Stephen Pieters
Director of UFMCC HIV/AIDS Ministry
and one of the World's
Longest Surviving Persons with AIDS.

10 Practical Life-Affirming Steps
For Living With AIDS At A Time
When PWA's Are Living Longer
and Healthier Lives.
An excellent, hope filled resource for
churches, community centers,
study groups, therapists and counselors.

20 cents each
Contact UFMCC Resource Center
8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Tel: (310) 360-8640
Fax: (310) 360-8680



■ **Members of MCC** of Incarnation. Front row, left to right: John, Darlene, Pastor Bradley Mickleson, Pablo Navarro, Cynthia. Second row: Gail, Ada.



Want to continue your education

for ministry, expanding your horizons and

building your skills? Looking for the seminary, college or graduate school that's right for you? Wondering where to start? We recently asked all accredited seminaries in the United States and Canada if they accepted openly lesbian/gay/ bisexual and transgendered students. For a list of those that responded positively, call the Director of Clergy Development, the Rev. Maggie Tanis, at Fellowship headquarters. The list is free to all; just ask! Or check out one of these educational guides:

For world wide listings, check out the International Handbook of Universities and the World List of Universities/Liste Mondiale des Universites both published by the International Association of Universities (New York: Stockton Press). On the web, your best bet is Yahoo's college guide at <http://www.yahoo.com/Education/Universities>. This site also includes links to other international guides, such as the Global University Web. Yahoo lists all countries represented in the UFMCC with the exception of Nigeria. So, it's the spot to find that Christian Ethics course in Pretoria . . . and much more!

The European Universities

Continuing Education Network lists programs on the web at <http://vww.fe.up.pt/eucen> while the International Centre for Distance Learning (iCDL) can help you find opportunities to learn from afar. They can be reached at: The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom, by phone at +44 1908 653537 or by e-mail at icHL-enquiries@open.ac.uk.

In Australia, check out The Good Universities Guide, available in book format and on the world wide web at <http://www.ashmil.com.au/>

In the United States, look for Peterson's Guide to Colleges and Universities (Princeton, New Jersey). Peterson's publishes many volumes of information, including ones for undergraduate and graduate studies (look for "theology" in the volume of graduate schools in the humanities). They also publish the Peterson's Guide to Distance Learning for those who are looking for correspondence courses and The Virtual College, by Pam Dixon, for classes taught through the Internet. All of these can commonly be found at the reference desk of your public library. Peterson's website can be found at <http://www.peterson's.com>. The College Board website also has useful information; find them at <http://www/collegeboard.org>.

CLASSIFIEDS

■ **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** of Greater St. Louis, Missouri, a chartered UFMCC church since 1974, announces a pastoral vacancy effective March 20, 1997. Located in a large metropolitan area, MCC St. Louis serves a diverse population. MCC St. Louis' active membership is in excess of 100, with two Sunday worship services to serve the community. We are an energetic, growing congregation seeking to employ a Senior Pastor.

Interested clergy please respond to: MCC of Greater St. Louis, Pastoral Search Committee, P. O. Box 13410, St. Louis, MO 63138-0410

■ **SAVE UP TO 80%** on dental, vision, & prescriptions. Community friendly. \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949.

■ **BROKERS NEEDED** Full, part time. Excellent commissions & training. Own your business and help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information.

■ **VIEUX CARRE' MCC** of New Orleans seeks administrator for a day center. Must have excellent administrative skills and HIV awareness. Send letters of interest to the Rev. Dexter Brecht, 1128 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans, LA 70117.

■ **24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE** is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX 415-864-0406.

■ **ATTENTION Gay Servicemembers!** Know your legal rights: Say nothing, Sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

■ **Wanted: Experienced Christ-centered pianist** to play for Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday night ensemble and choir rehearsals, and special services as needed. Must be an excellent sight reader, willing to work as part of a team, and have skills in basic improvisation. Excellent salary for this position. If you meet these qualifications, please call the MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas at (713) 861-9149.

■ **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY** sought by MCC Washington. Full time position. Starting salary in the mid-20's with benefits. Degree in music preferred. Please send a letter of interest by April 30th to: MCC-DC, 474 Ridge Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001. FAX: 202-638-4048.

■ **MCC EDMONTON** is presently conducting a pastoral search: The position presently is quarter-time with \$650.00 CDN per month compensation. We hope to increase this to half-time with increased membership. April, 1997 is deadline for submissions. Contact: Pastoral Search, c/o MCC Edmonton, Unit 151, 10342 - 107th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 1 K2.

■ **WANTED for MCC London UK**, Part time yet 100% committed PASTOR. We seek a team builder and leader who will work with us to develop a mature and liberated Christian community. Application by cv. Closing date Friday 16th May. For further details and a job pack contact: Sarah Corlett, 47 Corrance Rd, London UK, SW2 5RD. Tele: (0)171 737 0770 or RWFHA@compuserve.com.

■ **MUSIC Director, Part-Time** Keyboard and conducting experience required. Select and coordinate music. Responsible for directing choir practice and Sunday am and pm services. Send resume to: Harvest MCC S. Stemmons, Denton TX 76205 E-mail to Harvestmcc@aol.com or fax to (817) 321-2337.

UFMCCer's Featured In April POZ Magazine



Two members of the UFMCC leadership received coverage in the April issue of the internationally distributed POZ magazine. Rev. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice, has a feature article on page 64 entitled "The Cheshire Cat," which warns of hypocrisy by many "AIDS ministries."

And the Rev. Stephen Pieters, Director of UFMCC HIV/AIDS Ministry, receives recognition for the quality of

his advice to PWAs over the Internet in the column CyperPOZ on page 52. Among Internet advice givers, POZ salutes Pieters for giving "the most cogent and challenging advice...there is an authentic ring to his counsel...the sincerely and solace of a participating witness..."



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CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes - February 1997

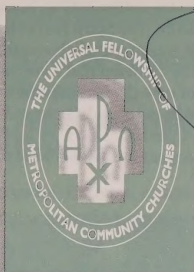
1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$3,606.77
2. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA \$2,234.29
3. MCC Washington, Washington, DC 2,221.22
4. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL \$1,792.37
5. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA \$1,580.13
6. MCC San Diego, San Diego, CA \$1,561.95
7. MCC New York, New York City, NY \$1,472.94
8. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO \$1,393.74
9. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL \$1,316.19
10. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL \$1,250.48
11. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL \$1,198.61
12. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA \$1,092.46
13. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC \$1,080.85
14. River City MCC, Sacramento, CA \$1,073.22
15. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC \$1,026.99
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS \$991.80
17. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX \$978.82
18. Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA \$953.67
19. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA \$901.66
20. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC \$873.97

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita - February 1997

1. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO \$81.93
2. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS \$46.11
3. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY \$44.42
4. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO \$43.59
5. MCC Glendale, Glendale, CA \$37.12
6. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA \$32.51
7. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA \$28.55
8. Eglise du Saint Esprit, Lafayette, LA \$28.24
9. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL \$26.52
10. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA \$26.14
11. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL \$25.61
12. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$24.14
13. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA \$23.23
14. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN \$22.32
15. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley, CA \$22.16
16. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL \$22.05
17. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC \$21.31
18. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT \$20.92
19. MCC Huntsville, Huntsville, AL \$20.85
20. New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH \$20.85

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

March 1997

UFMCC Technology Summit... A Success!

Twenty-four cyber-volunteers attended the first UFMCC Technology Summit, held at Headquarters offices on February 1st. The Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder and Moderator of UFMCC, convened the Summit to address the use of modern technology in ministry, as well as issues related to use of existing and emerging tech

COVER STORY REV. DAVID FARRELL
nologies in the planned reconfiguration of the new UFMCC World Center building in West Hollywood.

During the Summit, Perry unveiled significant new plans to expand UFMCC's presence in cyberspace.

The conference attendees, from MCC's around the USA, are experts in various areas of technology who paid their own expenses to the summit in order to participate in this series of "dreaming and visioning sessions" about the future use of information technologies to enhance and expand the ministry of UFMCC.

Guest speaker at the Summit was Tom Rielly, co-founder of Digital Queers, and President/CEO of PlanetOut, an online "virtual community" on America Online and the worldwide web. Rielly encouraged UFMCC to continue to develop and explore ways to harness technology in the service of our ministry goals, and as a means of outreach to new

people.

While there was much discussion about equipping UFMCC offices for the future, the emphasis was on finding creative ways to serve local MCC congregations and individual members by utilizing new communications technologies. Discussion focused on accessibility issues and the need for inclusivity in all aspects of UFMCC ministry. All participants agreed to serve as volunteer advisors/consultants in their individual areas of technical expertise to help realize these goals.

During the Summit, Rielly and Perry unveiled major new plans for UFMCC to partner with PlanetOut on AOL and the worldwide web. Immediate plans include: * a weekly hosted "UFMCC Chat" on PlanetOut on Fridays from 8-10 PM EST; * A UFMCC presence on the PlanetOut "Civic Center" on AOL and WWW; * mutual links on PNO and the UFMCC websites; * various "list serve" areas on PNO server.

In the next six months, PlanetOut will present worship services and programs from local UFMCC congregations on the Internet in both real audio and video/audio.

According to Perry, "UFMCC has already established itself as a major lesbian/gay presence in cyberspace. The denomination maintains a 115-

page website (<http://www.ufmcc.com>) with live links to over 65 local MCC webpages, many regional and district websites, and E-mail directories for our member congregations around the globe."

"Our plans for the future include a world-class Communications Center in our new building complex, utilizing the best in new technology to build, strengthen and equip local congregations," Perry added. "Establishing a major presence on PlanetOut, both on AOL and the worldwide web, is an important component of our online strategy for UFMCC as we become the "Church for the 21st Century!"

Before concluding the one-day Summit, the group developed a working mission statement that defines its purpose as, "Enhancing UFMCC communications globally by strengthening and equipping the ministry of local congregations through emerging and existing information technologies."

The groups short-range goals include connecting UFMCC offices to the internet, publicizing UFMCC's internet address, conducting an accessibility survey of local MCC churches, creating list-serve areas on AOL, and training UFMCC staff at Headquarters Offices.

Those participating in the Technology Summit included John Camp (VA), Sparkle Clark (SC), John

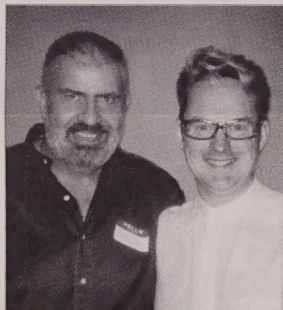


■ The 24 cyber-volunteers who attended the first UFMCC Tech Summit.

Cooper (TX), Mark Hahn (CA), David Henson (CO), Tom Langley (VA), Linda Leslie (OH), Beverly Mitzel (NC), Brian Nahodit (VA), Larry Richards (CA), Elder Larry Rodriguez (CA), Jim Robert (TX), Chuck Roesel (TX), Janina Sajika (NY), David Sorey (CO), Isaac Swanson (CO), Paul Taylor (TX).

UFMCC staff members who were present for the conference included the Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator; the Rev. Elder Don Eastman, 2nd Vice Moderator/Treasurer; Ravi Verma, Director of Administration; the Rev. David Farrell, Capital Campaign Co-Chair and UFMCC Webmaster; the Rev. Maggie Tanis, Director of Clergy Development; Frank Zerilli, Confidential Assistant to the Moderator; and Yvonne Thompson, Executive Assistant to the Director of Administration.

■ **The Rev. Elder Troy Perry** (left) and **Tom Rielly**, President of PlanetOut (right)



GLOBAL OUTREACH REV JUDY DAHL



Mexico City Mariachi's

Several historic events occurred in Mexico in February. A seminar was conducted on a Saturday afternoon to share information and dreams of the lesbians in Mexico. A panel of three women, both from within and outside the local MCC participated in a well attended and lively debated discussion. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson spoke about women in the church and who was kept deeply engaged with women who wanted more information and held keen interest in the future of MCC in Mexico. Look for some new women pastors in Mexico in the next few years!

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in Mexico City where three pastors

in longtime service to the UFMCC in their homeland of Mexico, were ordained. Over 300 people lined the streets near the church to witness the ordination of Rev. Rudolph Albarron, assistant pastor of ICM Reconciliation, Rev. Alfonso Leija, Pastor of ICM Renovacion in Cuernavaca, and Rev. Jorge Sosa, Senior Pastor of the Mexico City ICM.

Two beautiful voices filled the sanctuary with a gorgeous rendering of Ave Maria at two separate times following the ordination. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. After the ordination, Jorge and Rudolph had a Holy Union to bless their 18 year relationship. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Rev. Judy Dahl presided over both the ordinations and the Holy Union. After the service was complete, the mariachi's wandered in from the streets and filled the church with festive music of celebration. Tons of delicious food and laughter and dancing blessed the hundreds gathered to share with Jorge, Rudolph, and Alfonso! CONGRATULATIONS! FELICIDADES!!!

Don't Cry For Argentina

The morning following his Holy Union, Rev. Jorge Sosa left Mexico City with Rev. Judy Dahl to visit our church in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It had been several years since this area had received an official visit. ICM Buenos Aires is at the place in its life as a church where many potentials for growth and development are pulsing. To address this need and to share leadership and ministry, the Board of Global Outreach asked Rev. Sosa to go to Argentina, ICM Buenos Aires, to work with the Pastor and Board of Directors in planning and building for the future. As the Area Coordinator for Mexico and as a successful church Pastor in Latin America, Jorge is the perfect person to share and mentor Alejandro and the Board through this next stage of their development.

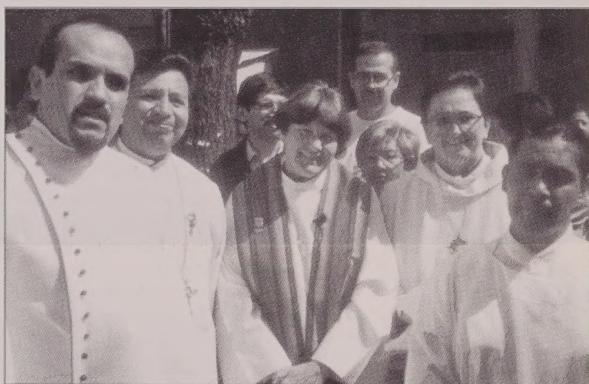
In addition to overall church development, Rev. Sosa will work with Alejandro to design a timeline to move toward his ordination. Alejandro has made wonderful ecumenical connections in Buenos Aires. A meeting with seven clergy and pastors from the city met to share their support and to express the need for an ICM in Buenos Aires' Ulises Pedraza, who recently moved from Uruguay will also be working with Rev. Sosa to map out a plan to become UFMCC clergy.

Rev. Dr. Tom Hanks, who has been an active friend of MCC over the years, graciously opened his home to Rev. Dahl during her weeks stay and

hosted several MCC meetings.

In keeping with the theme of this latest Global Outreach journey, Alejandro and Oscar celebrated their Holy Union with Rev.'s Sosa and Dahl presiding. At the conclusion of the ceremony, an enormous wind blew through the windows of the room and offered a welcome relief

■ **Rev Wilson**
[back to camera]
After Women's
seminar.



■ **L-R** Rev. Rudolph Albarron, Rev. Jorge Sosa, Rev. Judy Dahl, Rev. Elder Wilson, Rev. Alfonso Leija waiting to process into ordination service

GLOBAL OUTREACH REV SANDRA ROBINSON



Samaritan Board of Trustees Kick Off Aggressive 1997 Goals

The National Board of Trustees of the Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies held its first 1997 meeting January 31-February 2 in Dallas, TX. The comprehensive meeting kicked off a year dedicated to expanding the visibility and financial viability of the school.

This year Samaritan added seven new Trustees to its Board. The new members as well as the current members reflect the school's dedication to quality growth through diversification of its volunteer leadership. The new members are: Rev. Dr. Elder Charlie

to the earlier stifling humid temperature. The Spirit had entered in and it was unmistakable in the minds of the gathered that a special blessing of new life was present for Alejandro and Oscar and ICM in Argentina. Don't cry for ICM Argentina...God is with them!

Arehart, Richmond, VA (elected Vice Chair of the Board) Fred York, Dallas, TX Joan K. SumTners, Flower Mound, TX Richard Peeples, Dallas, TX Rev. Eleanor Nealy, Houston, TX J. Robert Brown, Atlanta GA Marilyn Alexander, Dallas, TX "I am really excited by the composition of our Board of Trustees," said Rev. Sandra Robinson, President. "We had a tremendously productive meeting that is helping us push forward our mission of providing non-homophobic theological education for leadership into the 21st century."



A Call for Pastoral Response to Anti-Homosexual Rhetoric

Words have power. False and inflammatory words against God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered children lead directly and indirectly to suffering and even death. We are committed to healing those who are wounded in the war of words, but we must also work to cut off the flow of words that create the hostile climate in which our congregants suffer and die. Carried by cable into approximately 70 million U.S. homes, Pat Robertson's Family Channel has become a primary carrier for the words that hurt the people we serve. On the surface, Family Channel programming seems innocent enough with its steady diet of popular movies and TV series' reruns ("Three Stooges," "Waltons," "Highway to Heaven"). However, three times every day a full hour of toxic word waste flows into that polluted programming stream. Once in the morning and twice at night, the Family Channel repeats Pat's "700 Club" with its false and inflammatory attacks on lesbian and gay Americans.

On January 7, 1997, for example, Robertson claimed that the two biggest problems in America are "homosexuality and abortion". He caricatured those of us who support equal rights for lesbians and gays as a "malevolent force pushing this agenda...that is perverse and evil." The 'soul force' principles of Jesus, Gandhi, and King are clear. Our adversaries are "victims of misinformation." We must continue "to present the truth in love relentlessly" until Robertson, millions of his TV followers, and the 1.7 million political activists in his Christian Coalition see the light.

Here's how you can help stop the dangerous flow of words from the Family Channel's "700 Club" that lead directly and indirectly to the suffering of our sisters and brothers. 1. Find the Family Channel (FAM) in your TV guide and decide for yourself if you want to go on watching (and thus supporting) the channel that Pat uses in his attempts to turn

the country against us. Your cable company will block the Family Channel from your home if you request it. If enough people call, we will send a warning to Pat and the other extremists that they will finally understand. It is no longer profitable to caricature and condemn God's gay children.

2. Warn your congregants (and your community) that there are "700 Club" wolves hiding among the Family Channel sheep. You obey God's call to do justice and love mercy when you encourage them to join with you in taking a stand against the extremist's campaign to end our rights if not eliminate us altogether.

3. Call your local cable operator (or management of the local TV station that carries the "700 Club") and ask for an appointment to share your pastoral concern. Bring our "Rhetoric of Intolerance" video to that meeting. Most TV executives don't watch Robertson. They need to hear exactly what Pat is saying. Ask that the video be played on the air as an "equal opportunity" to respond to the false charges against us.

4. Watch the Family Channel just long enough to write down 2-3 of the regular sponsor's 800 numbers or home pages and call or e-mail your concern. Most sponsors don't know that their dollars help keep Pat Robertson's anti-homosexual campaign on the air. Tell Keebler, Lysol, Campbells, Dr. Scholl's, Hormel, Magnavox, Pillsbury, Jenny Craig, Jeep, Betty Crocker, Disney, Columbia, Vons, Chrysler, Heath Bar, and the others. They need to know.

5. Share your pastoral concern directly with Pat at his CBN home page - <http://www.cbn.org/> (Click on "Feedback") - or at his Family Channel home page - <http://www.familychannel.com/> (Scroll to "Tell us what you think").

6. Contact the Federal Communication's Commission with your concerns. The commissioners regulate public broadcasting and need to know how you feel about Robertson's anti-homosexual campaign: fccinfo@fcc.gov

7. Share your concerns with local

ministers who support our struggle for justice. Lend or give them a copy of the "Rhetoric of Intolerance" video. Encourage them to warn their congregants and to join you in calling the stations that carry Pat's "700 Club." We are NOT trying to censor anyone's right to speak. We are simply taking our stand for truth and against deadly untruth.

8. If you want to stay informed about the dangerous words and actions of Pat Robertson, Ralph Reed, and their Christian Coalition, e-mail Paula X at Watch

97@aol.com to get on her informative and 'undercover' CCWatch. 9. Check regularly with our own JusticeNET home page for new information about Pat Robertson's Family Channel and how you can help silence the rhetoric. <http://www.electriciti.com/~trey/melwhite/>

10. Too many Americans have never seen or heard the anti-homosexual extremists in action. Our "Rhetoric of Intolerance" video includes 35 of Pat's most outrageous recent statements, (not just against lesbians and gays, but against "militant feminists," Muslim Americans and others on Pat's enemy list). The 30 minute video makes an excellent Sunday or Wednesday evening program. It is important that our congregants see for themselves what the extremists are saying and that we show them how they can respond more effectively.

* If you have NOT received a copy of our Rhetoric of Intolerance video call, write, or e-mail me at headquarters immediately and we'll see that you get your own free copy (with a 12-page User's Guide). If you have access to the video, it's OK to copy and distribute it freely!



Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung

International Theologians, Leaders are Keynote Speakers

Two internationally renowned theologians will serve as keynote speakers for the UFMCC XVIII General Conference in Sydney Australia, July 20-25.

Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung, Professor of Ecumenics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and the Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak, Visiting Professor of Theology, Church and Society at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, will highlight the upcoming conference.

Chung enjoys an international reputation for her contributions to Asian Feminist Theology. She has taught at Harvard Divinity School, Oxford University, and San Francisco Seminary, and is a frequent lecturer at major international conferences.

With a long tradition of interfaith experience, Chung is perhaps best known for her stirring address before the 1991 Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Australia. Her speech, "Come Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation," received intense media coverage. Chung's return to Australia for a keynote speech before the UFMCC General Conference is already generating significant interest by both media organizations and ecumenical groups.

Also serving as a keynote speaker will be noted anti-apartheid activist, the Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak. Boesak, past president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In 1983, while the African National Congress (ANC) was officially banned in South Africa, Boesak helped found the United Democratic Front, which became the largest anti-apartheid movement in the history of the South African struggle apart from the ANC. He holds honorary awards from Yale University, the University of Geneva, and Warwick University in England, and has received awards from Harvard University, the Robert Kennedy Foundation, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, among others.

■ Members of MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA, voted in January to purchase property located in Fairfax City. The church hopes to be able to close on the property in early April and have targeted June 1 for its first worship service at the new site.

■ First MCC Atlanta, GA, celebrated its 25th anniversary in January with special guest Rev. Elder Troy Perry. The church also honored Rev. Reid Christensen who has been Pastor there for eight years. Congratulations!

■ Harvest MCC, Denton, TX, unanimously voted to move forward with the purchase of twelve acres of property. The property has numerous existing structures and is currently being used as a Korean church retreat center.

■ The Great Lakes District has a new Special Work - Selah Ministries. It is the music ministry of Terry Lee Ousley who can be contacted at: 217-528-9827 or e-mail touslous@aol.com.

■ Congratulations to Good Shepherd MCC in Phoenix, AZ, as they recently elected Rev. Brad Wishon from St. Louis, MO, by 96% vote to be their Senior Pastor.

■ Rev. Roy Beane has resigned as District Coordinator of the European District as of February 28th and he will begin a Leave of Absence on that day. Prayers are requested for him and the European District.

■ Congratulations to Rev. Denis Moore for his 10 years of ministry at MCC San Jose, CA.

■ Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA, received a grant of \$5,000 from The Committee of Friends, to be used for their food pantry for people living with HIV/AIDS.

■ Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA, signed their final papers to purchase their building on January 24. During their 18 month campaign they raised \$80,000 for a down payment, another \$80,000 in pledges.

■ Christ Covenant MCC, Atlanta, GA, announced that Mr. David Puckett, Director of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus will join the staff as Minister of Music. David is an ordained UMC minister.

■ MCC Washington Gospel Choir also received the Gene Frey Award for volunteer Service 1996 from the Whitman Walker Clinic.

■ Rev. Dr. Earle Knisley just graduated from Loyola University with a Masters Degree in Pastoral Studies. He received his degree through an extension campus sponsored through the Catholic Archdioceses of Anchorage, AK.

■ Vieux Carre' MCC, New Orleans, LA, recently received two federal Ryan White grants. The first will partially fund their food pantry. In the second, they were selected as a pilot project site to develop a day program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

■ Thank you to MCC at Boise, ID, who gave their hymnbooks to churches throughout the Northwest District.

■ Rev. Phil Mathews from MCC Washington, DC has been named to serve as the official representative to the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

■ In January, a French/French-Canadian film production company filmed worship services at Christ Covenant MCC, Decatur, GA and interviewed pastor, Rev. Gienna Shepherd for a French documentary on lesbian community. This film will be released in the spring on French and French-Canadian public television.

First UFMCC Regional Mini-Conference Announced

The first UFMCC Regional Mini-Conference will take place in St. Louis, MO April 11-13, according to Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration. Topics will be "Skills and Resources for an Effective Board of Directors" and "How to Conduct a Successful Capital Campaign." Sessions will be held Friday evening and all day Saturday. Optional modules will be available Sunday morning at no additional cost for those wishing to stay over for worship in St. Louis. Optional modules include "Risk Management in the Local Church" and "Personnel Issues in the Local Church." Registration fee for the entire weekend is only \$40. Facilitators will be veteran fund raising executive Robert King, UFMCC 2nd Vice Moderator Don Eastman, and Ravi Verma. Conference hotel rates are available through Best Western Hotel by calling (314) 3677500. Housing may also be arranged with local MCC members by calling Rebecca at (314) 361322. For registration or additional conference information, contact Nancy Fackrell at UFMCC Headquarters at (310) 360-8640.



MCC At The Crystal Cathedral

More than eighty pastors, staff clergy and lay leaders from local MCC congregations recently participated in this year's annual Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. Cathedral of Hope MCC in Dallas was represented by thirty-two of its clergy and lay leaders at this event. Over the years, scores of MCC leaders have found this event to be an excellent source of information and inspiration, so this year the UFMCC's Strategic Growth Initiative Team developed a special one-day seminar for MCC attendees following the Institute. Among the participants were church leaders from all sizes of MCC congregations.

In the highly interactive SGI seminar, MCC leaders found opportunity to share practical ideas, hear various perspectives on information from the Schuller Institute and discuss approaches to common problems and challenges. Almost everyone had personal insights and "aha!" experiences to share from the four-day program at the Crystal Cathedral. The leaders of some of today's most well-known churches, such as Rick and Kay Warren of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, California, had provided deeply moving moments of insight which MCC participants were easily able to identify with their own ministries.

Plan Now For Next Year!

Given the success of this year's program, the SGI Team will again sponsor special events for MCC clergy and lay leaders next year.

"Communicating The Christian Gospel To Build Strong Churches" is the theme for next year's Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. With the Schuller Institute scheduled for January 26-29, 1998, SGI will conduct an orientation for MCC people attending this event on January 26, and the one-day SGI seminar on January 30, 1998.

Resources For Local Church Leaders

Even if you did not have the opportunity to attend the program at the Crystal Cathedral, you can benefit from the experience and insight of several key speakers. The following books provide superb examples of the information and inspiration given by these guests at this year's Institute for Successful Church Leadership.

The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995) Written by the founder and senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, California, the emphasis of this book shifts the focus from church building programs to a people-building process. "If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church."

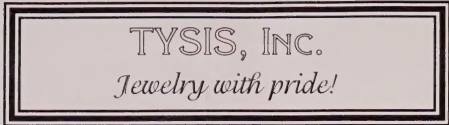
Rediscovering Church by Lynne and Bill Hybels (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995) The story of one of the twentieth century's most remarkable churches, Willow Creek Community Church, in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, this book is aimed at those who "long to be a part of a group of believers striving truly to be the church."

Developing The Leader Within You by John C. Maxwell (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993) Written by the senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego, this is one of the best books written on the subject of church leadership. John Maxwell has a developed a wealth of materials for church leaders, all of which are available from Injoy, 1530 Jamacha Road, Suite D, El Cajon, CA 92019, or call 1-800 333-6506



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Silver \$38.50	Gold N/A

ITEM # 1956 Brilliant inlaid color in a deep rectangular channel that simply states you appreciation for beauty, diversity and pride.

	Sizes 8-12
Silver \$29.50	Gold \$42.00

ITEM # 1958 "Would you be my...lover...partner...friend?" Great as a commitment ring, or just to say, "I love you".

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$29.50	Gold \$46.00

ITEM # 1959 Rounded channel of inlaid color, similar to #1956, but with rounded edges for a slightly softer look and feel.

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$28.50	Gold \$42.50

ITEM # 1960 Cascading color with a dramatic look and a bold statement for those who are truly "out there".

	Sizes 8-12
Silver \$38.50	Gold \$46.50

ITEM # 1961 Distinctive, slender accent of color that subtly says "Yes, I am."

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$26.50	Gold \$41.50

ITEM # 1962 Rainbows and ribbons are vertically inlaid colors individually separated by silver. A finely detailed, engraved ribbon at each end of this rainbow symbolizes hope.

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$29.50	Gold \$43.50

ITEM # 1963 Zig - Zag of color that catches the eyes and flashes a statement of pride!

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$27.00	Gold \$41.50

ITEM # 1964 This pendant is elegant and casual. Hanging from a matching 18" or 24" chain in gold or silver. This rainbow will compliment and brighten your neckline.

Actual size of pendant 1" x 1/4"
Silver \$17.50 Gold \$21.50

ITEM #1910 As classic as a tuxedo, a ruby red semi-precious stone nestled between two bands of black Colormeg.

	Sizes 8-12
Silver \$30.50	Gold \$45.00

ITEM # 1912 Slimmer classic similar to #1910, but slimmer and with rounded edges for a slightly less dramatic look and feel.

	Sizes 5-12
Silver \$29.50	Gold \$45.00

▲ EARRINGS ▲

ITEM # 1061 Simple...graceful...elegant -- with a touch of flair! Available with Post only

Silver \$26.50	Gold \$44.50
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ITEM # 1062 Ribbons of remembrance with finely inscribed ribbon details below a rainbow of color.

Post or Wire
Silver \$29.50 Gold \$48.00

ITEM # 1063 Lightning strikes twice! These luminous earrings coordinate well with item # 1963

Post or Wire
Silver \$27.50 Gold \$48.00

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ Please Print Legibly
City: _____ State: _____ Zip (+four): _____

Item #: _____	☐ Silver (Check One)	☐ Gold	Quantity: _____	Size: _____	\$ _____
Item #: _____	☐ Silver (Check One)	☐ Gold	Quantity: _____	Size: _____	\$ _____
Item #: _____	☐ Silver (Check One)	☐ Gold	Quantity: _____	Size: _____	\$ _____

Shipping and Handling: \$ 4.50
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Grief and Celebration

Funerals are down. Holy Unions are up. For some, it's time to pack away the shroud and bring out the party outfit. However, it's still necessary to mourn our losses, in order to celebrate fully the corner we've turned in the treatment of HIV. In the story of Lazarus, Jesus grieved before he let loose the wonder and joy of Lazarus' return to life.

We need new liturgies, new prayers, new sermons, and new music to celebrate the HIV treatment advances and the return to health so many are experiencing. We also need new ways to mourn the enormous amount of losses we have suffered over the past 16 years. Until we have fully mourned all we've lost, we cannot be free to appreciate and celebrate the advances in treatment and the new life many persons with HIV are enjoying.

How can we mourn effectively as individuals, as local churches, as districts, and as a denomination? What is the goal of grief in this new paradigm? How are the multiple losses we've suffered affecting the lives of our churches? And how do we balance our grief with the relief and joy we feel for those who are remarkably living well with HIV? How do we most effectively express our joy and gratitude for this new day? And how do we still express and demonstrate comfort and compassion for those who cannot access, afford, or tolerate the new drugs? These are all factors as we seek and design new liturgies and programs for church life and for AIDS Ministry. The temptation now is to forget about mourning, in the process of sweeping away the horror of what has happened to us since 1981. Pastors from all over UFMCC are reporting that AIDS funerals

have dropped dramatically in their frequency. There are reports that some churches, facing less need, are scaling back their AIDS Ministries, or letting go of chaplains and staff in AIDS work. Many non-governmental AIDS organizations are letting go of staff and programs. It seems as if finally we don't have to pay so much attention to AIDS, that at last we can let go of the urgency. And golly, does that feel good.

This is certainly something to celebrate. Prayers of thanksgiving are wholly appropriate, because years of intercessory prayers have been answered. New liturgies acknowledging and affirming these answered prayers can help our communities look forward to the future with joy and faith.

However, when we have not fully faced the toll HIV has taken on us all, then our grief can break through at unexpected moments. Lack of grief work in the church can still lead to unhealthy church dynamics, as our sadness and anger come out in inappropriate ways. And when we fail to address issues of access, prevention, and continuing ministry to those who are sick, we fail our mission as the church.

Can we really celebrate the good news without thoroughly grieving the tragic history of this epidemic? Can we truly recognize and celebrate the Resurrection if we forget about, or brush aside, the pain of the Crucifixion?

This June, many people will celebrate Lesbian/Gay Pride with a new gusto and a renewed sense of hope. As a kick-off for a genuine celebration of Lesbian/Gay Pride Month, the first weekend of June can be utilized in our churches as an opportunity to do the hard grief work of multiple losses. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and I are working on a liturgy designed to set us free to celebrate by acknowledging and facing all the deaths we have witnessed over a decade and a half.

Others who are creating liturgies, prayers, music, or sermons to deal with the new paradigm of AIDS are encouraged to share their experiences and resources with the denomination. Please send your plans and resources to UFMCC AIDS Ministry at Global Headquarters, and we will put together the best of these resources for distribution to all our churches.

■ Prayers are requested for Rev. Jodi Mekkers and Rev. Leslie Addison, both of the Northwest District, both of whom just lost their fathers.

■ MCC Seattle, WA, requests your prayers as they complete negotiations with the management of property they want and as they prepare to move.

■ Please keep Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey in your prayers as she was recently hospitalized with congestive heart failure and doctors have ordered two weeks of rest and recuperation. Please pray for a speedy recovery.

■ Prayers for Gary Nixon (partner of Rev. Mel White) and his parents, who both recently experienced strokes.

■ Church of the Disciples MCC in Washington, DC needs our prayers as their pastor, Rev. Harry Stock, has tendered his resignation.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Upcoming Excel Weekends:

- April 4-6 Suitcase Weekend in Amarillo and Lubbock, Texas
- April 11-13 Excel of the Rainbow Zebra, North Carolina
- April 16-20 Executive Committee Meeting of Excel International, Guerneville, CA
- April 17-20 Samaritan Course - Christian Ethics, First MCC Kansas, Wichita, KS
- April 11-13 UFMCC Mini Conference - Board of Directors/Capital Campaign St. Louis, Missouri
- April 17 "Living Well, Dying Well: Facing End of Life Decisions" [For info call IlifInstitute: 1-800-678-3360]
- May 2-3 Leadership 2000 - Mid-Atlantic District, Harrisburg, PA [Guest Speaker: Wendy Foxworth]
- May 1-4 South Central District Conference "Blessed Be The Rock" [Dallas, TX; Guest Speaker: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson]
- May 2-4 Gulf Lower Atlantic District Conference, Chattanooga, TN

WHAT'S NEWS ON THE LEGAL FRONT

MCC Celebrates Gay Marriage

Metropolitan Community Churches continue to take a public stand on behalf of same-sex marriages. In recent reports to UFMCC Headquarters, two MCC congregations took significant public stands to celebrate gay marriage.

The Rev. Pat Langlois and the congregation of Emmanuel MCC in Albuquerque recently held a public ceremony on the steps of the New Mexico statehouse as more than 50 same gender couples celebrated weddings and renewal of vows. They were joined by spiritual leaders from many religious backgrounds, and more than 200 supportive friends and family members. As snow gently fell, the group added a very human and loving face on the debate that has swirled around the New Mexico state capitol.

And the Rev. Grant Ford, pastor of Sunshine Cathedral in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, conducted a service of Holy Unions and blessings for 250 same gender couples during Love Weekend, an annual celebration of the gay and lesbian community.

As a result of the Holy Union Celebration, Ford reports that more 40 couples became first time worshippers at Sunshine Cathedral during Love Weekend.



Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8640, UFMCC E-mail: ufmccchq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue: 10th of previous month.

Editor

James N. Birkitt Jr., Director of Communications

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev Steve Pieters



Want to Reach the Unchurched? Try a Seeker Service!

"Why aren't we reaching more unchurched people?" That's the question the Rev. Tony Freeman, senior pastor of MCC San Diego asked. And his answer? "We need to find creative ways to communicate the gospel; ways that begin by relating to the interests and priorities of the unchurched." Tony quickly discovered his Southern California congregation had a vision for reaching unchurched youth and young adults. What they needed was a strategy.

So, as a first step, Tony formed a steering committee at MCC San Diego. The committee's task was to do lifestyle research by interviewing participants in community youth groups, gay/lesbian community centers and gay/lesbian college groups. The committee made some startling discoveries. While many of the unchurched expressed a deep interest in spirituality, most of them knew little about the Bible, didn't understand "church" terminology, and were turned off by traditional worship services. The steering committee also discovered many positive motivational factors, including music, drama, informality, food, and friendship.

"The research revealed two things," said Tony. "It showed us where we were failing to communicate as a church, and it showed us how we could effectively communicate our message to the unchurched."

Working with the committee, Tony designed a service especially to appeal to the interests of a young, unchurched audience. And here's what happened: The new service is held on Saturday evenings, to better accommodate weekend schedules. Hymns have been replaced with slides. Pastoral robes have been replaced with jeans and polo shirts.

Even the church's terminology has changed to better communicate with a young, unchurched target audience. Worship became "celebration."

Bulletins became "celebration folders." The call to worship became the "warm up." The sermon is listed as "impact words." The benediction is now called the "see-you-next-week." Each service includes a brief drama, and the "impact words" are followed by a question-and-answer session, encouraging congregants to explore key ideas from the sermon. Many of the services are led by lay members.

A creative twist to MCC San Diego's new seeker services is the addition of guest headliners. These guests may include human rights activists, musicians, songwriters, artists, authors, and political leaders. The church heavily promotes the guest headliners through paid advertising and press releases. "The addition of the guest headliners has generated a lot of free publicity for the new services," said Freeman, "and has encouraged people to give our church a try."

Interestingly, food is an important component of the new format. "After each service, we hold a pizza party or a social with food," said Freeman. "This helps promote interaction between worshipers, encourages new friendships, and fosters a spirit of community."

Initial response have been extremely positive. Eighty-three people attended the very first service on February 8th. "We've launched our new seeker service with a long term commitment to making it work," Freeman added. He's quick to point out, "We haven't changed our message, only our way of communicating the message. We are attempting to communicate the gospel in ways that are relevant and easily understood by today's unchurched young adults."

Troy Perry, founder and Moderator of UFMCC, said, "UFMCC has a strong commitment sharing God's message of hope, love and acceptance with all people. I salute our churches who are finding new and creative ways to make the Gospel relevant to our generation and who are preparing UFMCC to be the 'Church of the 21st Century.'"

"It was God's Timing"

The Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Founder and Moderator of UFMCC, arrived in Atlanta as part of the Capital Campaign Tour in the immediate aftermath of the recent bombing of an Atlanta lesbian bar. His presence in Atlanta was carried on the Associated Press news wire and generated several interviews and news stories.

In remarks to the press, Perry said, "I come with a message of solidarity and support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities of the Greater Atlanta area. Our prayers and support go out to the five persons who were injured in the blast. We are thankful that no lives were lost. Once again we are reminded that we must be vigilant in the face of increasingly hostile rhetoric and actions against the gay community," Perry added.

Thanks to God's timing, Elder Perry was able to bring God's message of hope and encouragement to the citizens of Atlanta.

Council of Churches News

Rev. Glenna Shepherd, pastor of Christ Covenant MCC in Decatur, GA, reports that she just recently was elected to the Board of Directors of The Christian Council of Metro Atlanta (local council of churches). Although the Council had been unwilling to consider MCC presence on the Board two years ago, the President of the Council asked her to run this year. She was elected unanimously, but several weeks after the election, the Executive Director of the Council resigned, citing her election as the reason for his resignation. But...at the February Board meeting, when the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church re-channelled their giving to the Council from the General Budget to the Homeless Ministries Budget (citing her election as the reason), the Board elected to reject their contribution! Rev. Shepherd's election seems to have brought the issue of MCC's legitimacy to public view. The mainstream ecumenical community in Atlanta is with us. Rev. Shepherd has been able to make friends with many pastors and lay people who do ecumenical work through many years as a staff member of the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta as well as through work with homeless issues.



Looking for a workshop on preaching?

Here are two:

The Fourth Fosdick

Convocation on Preaching and Worship is happening at The Riverside Church in New York City, April 1-4, 1997. The questions that will be explored include:

- *how do you find your own voice in preaching and worship?*
- *who are the silenced voices in the church and Christian communities today?*
- *what does justice mean in the contemporary world?*
- *what visions will move us into a new millennium? Lesbian and gay issues and the role of homophobia are among the workshop and panel topics.*

For more information, check out their web page at: <http://www.uts.columbia.edu/~fosdick> or call 212-870-6803.

The International Congress on Preaching bringing together preachers from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Canada and other countries, will be held April 22-25, 1997 at Westminster Chapel in London, England.

The Congress is centered on the theme "Hold High the Word," and includes practical workshops, sermons and addresses. For more information, contact International Congress on Preaching, PO Box 369, Jackson, TN 38302-0369, USA; 1-800-288-9673 or e-mail 74114 275@compuserve.com

Looking for preaching and study resources on the world wide web?

Check these out

Preaching Magazine and the American Academy of Ministry at <http://www.preaching.com>—this site includes upcoming events, subscription information for Preaching Magazine (available in hardcopy or electronically) and some past articles The WWW Bible Gateway at <http://www.gospel.com.net/bible>—here you can access Bible resources in English, German, Swedish, Latin, French, Spanish and Tagalog, comparing seven different translations in searching for thousands of topics The Biblical Studies Foundation at <http://www.bible.org>—this web page is "dedicated to putting quality biblical research and study materials on-line." You can access all kinds of articles and information through this page.

Looking for additional children's resources? Here's another on-line site:

Abda Acts Art and Publishing, of Adelaide, Australia, offers free children's colouring pages; you can print them directly from their web page. Some pages do require editing for inclusive language; in the United States, you will want to print on legal size paper since the format is for pages longer than 8 1/2 by 11 in. You can find them at <http://www.tne.net.au/abdaacts>

CLASSIFIEDS

■ **24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE** is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686; (415) 864-5686; FAX: (415) 864-0406.

■ **Attention Gay Servicemembers!** Know your legal rights: Say nothing, Sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

■ **Lighthouse MCC is seeking** qualified applicants for position of Senior Pastor. Send inquiries to Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1472, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1472. Full-time position. Confidentiality assured.

■ **Welcome to the Greatland!** Lamb of God MCC seeks pastor to lead small congregation with growth potential. Send resume by 4/15/97 to: Dan Carter, Pastoral Search Committee, Box 210072, Anchorage, AK 99521-0072. All contacts will be kept confidential.

■ **MCC Charlottesville seeks** pastor with commitment to inclusiveness, community involvement and church growth. Part-time position. Letters of interest: Carlton Dickerson, 2402 Smithfield Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901. E-mail: carlos47@juno.com.

■ **MCC Tampa**, a growth oriented church vested in the fellowship's Strategic Growth Initiative process is seeking a full time Director of Congregational Care to manage, train and develop congregational care ministries. All responses are confidential. Deadline for application packet request is March 31, 1997. Reply to: MCC Tampa, 408 East Cayuga Street, Tampa, Florida 33603; (813) 239-1951; (813) 239-2018; E-mail: UFMCCATAM-PA@aol.com.

■ **Music director/organist** with 20 years experience seeks full-time MCC position. Graduate music degree and New Orleans Baptist Seminary study. Please contact: G.D. Ryall, 114 Cummings Street, Laurens, SC 29360.

■ **MCC North London, England;** a rapidly growing chartered church with a vision for the year 2000 and beyond, is seeking applicants for part-time salaried pastor with potential to become full-time. Are you called to serve in one of the world's lesbian/gay capitals? Enquiries to: (Pastoral Search Committee Clerk), Nigel J. Utting, 17a Beech Road, London N11 2DA, UK [e-mail to: 106141.3250@compuserve.com]. Closing date for applications: 30 March 1997.

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■ **Robes! Robes! Robes!** Is your choir increasing, but your budget is not? MCC in the Valley has been blessed with new choir robes and would like to do the same for another church. We have 40 choir robes including robes for the conductor and organist. These are brown robes with two sets of stoles in very good to excellent condition and come in various sizes to fit any choir. We are asking \$400 for the set or best offer. Please contact Steven Applegate at MCCV, (818)762-1133.

1997 UFMCC Liturgical Calendar

All Pastors, Clergy Candidates, Deacons, Lay Pastors, and Worship Leaders should have a copy of The Liturgical Calendar for the 1997 Church Year, especially for use in the MCC's, and keyed to the Common Lectionary Year "B". Chi Rho Press is proud to bring you this helpful Liturgical Calendar for the third year in a row. Compiled by the Rev. Joseph Gilbert, this volume contains lectionary readings for Sundays and other Christian holidays from Dec. 1, 1996 through Dec. 28, 1997. Special new features include feasts of other Christian Churches and holidays and festivals of the inter-faith community.

This 32-page booklet is available for \$4.00 each. Six or more copies are \$3.00 each. (Please add shipping and handling of \$2.50 for 1-5 copies, \$3.50 for 6-13 copies, \$4.50 for 14-20 copies, and \$5.50 for over 21 copies.) Order by email [ChiRhoPrss@aol.com] and we will invoice you with your order. Or write to us at P.O. Box 7864, Gaithersburg, MD 20898, or use our Phone/FAX: 301/926-1208.



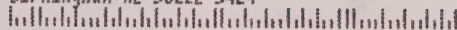
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CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes - January 1997

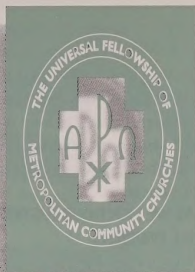
1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$3,433.59
2. MCC of Washington, DC \$2,414.73
3. MCC San Francisco, CA \$2,287.07
4. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL \$2,086.97
5. MCC New York, NY \$1,633.42
6. MCC San Diego, CA \$1,517.79
7. First MCC of Atlanta, GA \$1,435.30
8. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO \$1,416.04
9. MCC Richmond, VA \$899.74
10. MCC Charlotte, NC \$887.52
11. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS \$775.00
12. MCC Charleston, SC \$771.74
13. MCC New Haven, CT \$716.95
14. MCC Baltimore, MD \$712.69
15. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX \$699.55
16. MCC Key West, FL \$677.16
17. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO \$667.27
18. New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH \$654.55
19. Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA \$593.89
20. MCC Corpus Christi, TX \$570.16

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

Top 20 Per Capita - January 1997

1. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO \$38.41
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA \$33.92
3. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS \$33.20
4. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA \$32.33
5. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$26.64
6. MCC Huntsville, AL \$25.46
7. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN \$25.16
8. New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH \$24.51
9. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL \$24.03
10. MCC New York, NY \$23.04
11. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL \$22.84
12. MCC New Haven, CT \$22.20
13. Lexington's MCC, Lexington, KY \$21.02
14. MCC Albuquerque, NM \$20.02
15. Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA \$19.43
16. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley, CA \$19.41
17. MCC Charleston, SC \$19.34
18. Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA \$19.34
19. MCC Shepherd of the Plains, Great Falls, MT \$19.14
20. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA \$18.27

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

February 1997

A Shining Light in Sydney

General Conference To Open With Outreach Rally

Soon, people from Metropolitan Community Churches everywhere will gather in beautiful Sydney, Australia for the most exciting and unique General Conference in UFMCC's 29-year history. Unlike any previous UFMCC General

COVER STORY REV ELDER DON EASTMAN

Conference, this year's biennial gathering of the world-wide MCC fellowship will begin with an event specifically reaching out to unchurched people in the local community. It could not happen at a better time. Today, a passionate vision and spirit of renewal is moving many congregations toward a new wave of outreach.

This year in Australia there are remarkable examples of effective outreach by smaller and mid-sized churches, which have made an impact on their communities through Christmas events. In Perth, the 16-member MCC reports that nearly 600

people attended "Carols By Candlelight," an open-air summer evening celebration.

Although January typically brings the "summer slump" to worship attendance in many Australian churches, at least 40 new people are now attending MCC Sydney as a result of the 1996 Christmas Eve service conducted in Sydney's historic Town Hall. More than 1000 people attended to enjoy an evening of celebration, including music provided by the 80-member Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir.

"You Are The Light Of The World"

The theme of the 1997 General Conference, "You Are The Light of the World," gives focus to various events and opportunities

where people of local congregations can gain new inspiration and information for outreach and evangelism. Highlights of this General Conference will include special guests, Allan Boesak, South African theologian, pastor, and activist for justice; and Chung Hyun Kyung, Korean author, and Asian feminist theologian.

In addition to eleven inspiring worship services, the General
continued on next page



■ **Christmas Eve**
1996 with MCC Sydney
in Sydney Town Hall.



■ **The historic** Sydney Town Hall, site of General Conference Eighteen's opening service.



■ **Senior Pastor** Greg Smith and staff of MCC Sydney lead a community Christmas celebration.

COVER STORY CONT.

Conference will include thirty workshops and four plenary sessions aimed at building skills and providing resources for local church ministry. An entire track of church growth workshops will be provided by the Strategic Growth Initiative to give new information and many hands-on resources for the development of healthy local congregations.

On Sunday evening, July 20, the majestic Sydney Town Hall will be filled to capacity with 2000 participants in Australia's largest religious event ever conducted with a specific outreach for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Once again, joyous, uplifting music will give way to Rev. Troy D. Perry's liberating vision and message which continues to transform thousands around the world. Don't miss it!

DOING JUSTICE REV. MEL WHITE



"It is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness."

THE JUSTICE CANDLE

From the moment we received an invitation to attend one of the 1997 Inaugural Balls, Gary and I knew that we couldn't dance at this Inauguration.

But we also knew that we should be in Washington, D.C. to signal our respect for the U.S. President's high office and to remind Mr. Clinton that he is called by his Creator to use his powerful office to do justice for all.

The next four years could bring great good or great harm to millions of us singled out by political and religious extremists for 'second-class-citizenship.' We must unite with other concerned Americans to urge the President to stand against poverty, racism, sexism, injustice and intolerance in every form. But as UFMCC clergy and laity we must also be

relentless at keeping before him the plight of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Americans.

Pat Robertson and the other anti-homosexual extremists have already launched campaigns to silence us and to

see us stripped of all our 'inalienable rights.' They don't want our light to shine for justice, for ourselves or for anyone else. In fact, they are working day and night to snuff it out. Lighting our Justice Candles is just one small way to help keep it burning.

On Inaugural Eve, Gary and I lit our Justice Candles with a crowd of

MCC congregants and our allies in Dupont Circle, the heart of the lesbian and gay community in Washington, D.C. Early that day, the Rev. Candace Shultis and I lit the first Justice Candle during both Sunday morning services at MCC Washington. Rev. Ken Martin's MCC Austin and other congregations joined us that same Inaugural Eve Sunday. E-mail messages are pouring in (RevMel@aol.com) assuring us that others are lighting their Justice Candles. We have heard from P-FLAG chapters and other people of faith groups (including a gay and lesbian synagogue, chapters of Dignity and Integrity and other solidarity organizations, 'Open Door - More Light' congregations and UUA churches.)

The Justice Candle idea is spreading rapidly across the nation. We hope you will consider lighting a Justice Candle with us. If you have an AIDS candle or other commemorative candle burning, consider lighting a Justice Candle and blending the flames. The Rev. Nori Rost (Pike's Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO) has written a responsive reading to use with your lighting ceremony. Contact her or me for a copy of that wonderful litany. Here's why we are lighting our Justice Candles.

WE LIGHT OUR JUSTICE CANDLES TO REMIND PRESIDENT CLINTON:

- that we are sincerely grateful that he has done more to support and include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Americans than any President in history; but -
- that by signing The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), he has denied our community the very rights he will swear to provide and protect on Inauguration Day; and, in some cases, because of what he has done or left undone, we continue to be second-class-citizens in our own country;
- that we light our Justice Candles that the President will see the light and use his power with Congress, the courts, and the people to do justice, not just for lesbians and gays, but for all who endure racism, sexism, poverty, or discrimination and intolerance in any form.

MORE SPECIFICALLY:

...to provide courageous leadership in the war against HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases;...to continue his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ...to initiate legislation to gain lesbian and gay partners the 175-250 rights that go with marriage, ...to defend our rights to

child custody, adoption, and foster care, ...to review the shameful results of his military policy and to end the military ban, ...to include us in hate crime protections and to help end the 'sodomy' laws, ...to help win for us the same rights (not 'special rights') that the U.S. Constitution promises all Americans.

AS WE LIGHT OUR JUSTICE CANDLES, WE PROMISE:

- to pray for the President that he might have the wisdom and the courage to work for justice during his second term, not just for lesbians and gays, but for all people who suffer second-class citizenship;
- that we will back our prayers with actions (letters, faxes, phone calls, e-mail, petitions, press conferences, public actions) that support and praise the President when he does justice and confront and condemn him when he remains silent and does nothing to oppose injustice;
- that we, too, will invest more of our time, money, and ideas this year in the cause of justice, not just for our own community, for all who face injustice, bigotry, and discrimination.

On January 20 we also celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We remember his commitment to justice by renewing our own.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!" Dr. King

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."

SAMARITAN INSTITUTE'S REGISTRATION

Samaritan Institute's 1997 Polity/Practices Program

Samaritan Institute's 1997 Polity/Practices Program will be held on the campus of San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, from Monday, June 16 until Saturday, June 28, 1997.

Cost for the program is as follows:

Registration fee	\$200
<i>(due March 15, 1997)</i>	
Tuition	\$950
<i>(due no later than May 9, 1997)</i>	
Room/Board	\$450
<i>(due no later than May 9, 1997)</i>	

When making flight arrangements, students should plan to arrive in San Francisco on Sunday, June 15 and leave after 12 noon on Saturday, June 28.

For Registration information, contact **Samartian Institute for Religious Studies, P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067**
tel: 972/221-7749 fax: 972/221-7345



■ **Over 350 people** attended a community Christmas celebration by MCC N. London.

Have You Read...?

An important article on protease inhibitors, "The Morning After" appears in the February, 1997 issue of *Poz* Magazine. While acknowledging the excitement of the turnaround in health many people are experiencing with protease inhibitors (PI's), the article asserts that recent advances are "a double-edged sword."

San Francisco researcher Don Abrams is quoted in the article as saying, "We're in the middle of the honeymoon period with these drugs, and whether this is going to be an enduring marriage is unclear." As studies of PI's continue, more and more is being learned: for instance, these new drugs work best for those who are recently infected, and those who have never been on antiviral therapies. Some researchers are reporting that 15 - 40% of patients are not responding to PI treatment. There is an "unparalleled degree of cross-resistance", i.e., if a patient builds resistance to one PI, that person will experience resistance to all of the current PI's.

In spite of successes with early treatment, there are some who argue that early intervention may not be the best plan. "Where there is... a finite temporal benefit to even the best of these drugs, early intervention is not necessarily the best strategy." Why light your only candle at noon when you have the whole night ahead?

We now know that there are some patients who have experienced "undetectable" viral load while on combination antiviral drugs, but whose viral loads soared as time went on. "If becoming 'undetectable' on nucleoside combos hasn't prevented progression to disease and death, why is 'undetectable' on the protease combinations impervious to failure?" Those who remember the honeymoon period with AZT when it first became available ten years ago, will remember there was an end to the honeymoon. Many scientists, researchers, and HIV/AIDS activists now fear that there will be an end to the honeymoon period with protease inhibitors. Yes, we're seeing a new day in treatment of HIV, but "that day may have problems of its own."

There are still hopeful voices from some activists on the frontlines. Rev. Jim Mitulski, pastor of MCC San Francisco, reports that in contrast to the years he performed 4 or 5 funerals a week due to AIDS, he is now doing about 2 a month. Michael Weinstein, activist and founder of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and a self-confessed pessimist, is optimistic that there will be a new class of even more effective drugs within a year or two, for those who had little or no success with PI's. So some people are feeling optimistic in spite of reports like "The Morning After." The challenge seems to be to maintain hope while keeping a realistic and cautionary eye on the on-going research.

It is vital to remember that the struggle against HIV and AIDS has not ended.

suddenly denied them an occupancy permit, citing the increase in anticipated traffic, and insufficient parking. No church had ever been denied an occupancy permit in Greenville before.

MCC Greenville took the city to court shortly after Easter. On May 21, 1996, the Greenville County Council unexpectedly passed an anti-gay resolution, a replica of the Cobb County, GA anti-gay resolution. The battle to rescind the resolution continues.

However, in August 1996, a judge remanded the decision about occupancy of

the church to the Zoning Board.

The Board miraculously approved the rezoning request, with the

stipulation that the church pave and landscape their parking lot, at a cost of \$8,000, for which the church had not budgeted.

The property has been vandalized twice, but planned improvements continue. In spite of the setbacks suffered, MCC Greenville is experiencing abundant blessings. The unsought publicity from the zoning issue has "evoked a wellspring of support spanning virtually every background imaginable."

property, city building inspectors and the Historical Society had outlined the needed changes to meet building codes. MCC members worked hard and gave a great deal to make these changes. In addition, members of the church conducted "Operation Big Sweep" over a four day period to eliminate the filth and debris in the building. Their dream was to have the sanctuary ready for worship by Easter, 1996.

However, the city zoning board, acting on protests from three neighbors and a larger church,

AIDS. The result is an increase in unsafe sexual activities, particularly among gay men.

In the face of these trends, HIV prevention education is needed more urgently than ever. In some places, MCC may be the only organization offering HIV education and prevention. If our denomination is going to continue growing, we must teach our people how to protect themselves from HIV infection. And we must re-motivate our people to practice safer sex as well as to exchange or properly clean their needles.

A number of opportunities are coming up to help us all re-charge our prevention efforts. At General Conference in Sydney, there will be opportunity for everyone to learn from the prevention successes of Australia, one of the only countries in the world to have a successful HIV prevention campaign. There

will also be a workshop on the "Men Talking Sex" program of MCC San Francisco. This program is an important step in HIV prevention, and Rev. Steve Pieters, Rev. Jim Mitulski, and Eric Rofes are working on making this a Fellowship-wide program.

In addition, UFMCC AIDS Ministry has applied for another grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, to update and revise the Peer Education Program (PEP/MCC) for use with adults.

Even with the treatment advances of the last year, it continues to be necessary to teach and motivate everyone about the ongoing need for HIV prevention. At this point, education is the only vaccine we've got. And in some places, MCC may be the only place where the vaccine is offered.



BUILDING

A Dream Deferred for MCC Greenville

MCC Greenville (SC) proudly bought its own church building in January 1996. Located in the city's historic downtown district, the former church and school had been abandoned for several years, and prior to MCC's purchase, was a haven for illegal drug use.

Six months prior to closing on the



Still An Urgent Need

With the recent

advances in treatment, with friends formerly sick with HIV now getting well, and with the decline in the HIV-related death rate, there are some people who now feel that the worst is over, and safer sex is no longer an urgent issue.

There are anecdotal reports of people saying, "Why should I worry about HIV now, when they have pills I can take to manage it?" There is "safe sex fatigue" among some gay men, who are just plain tired of taking the necessary precautions. And there is a fatalistic, sometimes suicidal attitude among other gay men who may fear aging, or who are simply chronically depressed from the losses they've already suffered from

HIV PREVENTION REV. STEVE PIETERS

■ Emmanuel MCC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is proud to announce that with the help of its generous congregation, community members, the Pagan and Jewish communities, and Full Circle Books, their "Littlest Angel Program" was able to bring Christmas to over 80 Children!

■ Congratulations to MCC Austin, Texas, chosen as 1996 Organization of the Year by Out Youth Austin, an organization serving the gay/lesbian and bisexual youth of Austin and Travis County.

■ The Board of Directors and Congregation of Christ MCC, Miami, Florida, are very pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Jerry Seay has been called and accepted the position of Senior Pastor starting Jan. 19, 1997.

■ An Acclamation and Laying-on of Hands ceremony was held during the Nov 1996 European District Conference in England. Four Elders, the Revs. Hong Tan, Darlene Garner, Wilhelmina Hein and Jean White along with the District Coordinator Rev. Roy Beaney were joined by four of the Laity, Ken Rogers, Cecilia Eggleston, Dr. Holger Kohlhoff and Dr. Elizabeth Stuart, in "calling forth" and Laying-on of hands of Lay leaders within the District. There were 15 Lay Delegates/Observers, 9 Lay Interim Pastors, and 8 District Lay Leaders.

■ MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas, held a Service of Dedication to celebrate the partnership among their newly elected Pastor, Rev. J. Dwayne Johnson, members and friends of the church, and the community in Dec. 1996. Rev. Arlene Ackerman, Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator delivered the message and she was joined by Rev. Eleanor Nealy, South Central District Coordinator who did the rite of blessing. Also in attendance were Rev. J. Dennis Johnson and Rev. Jamieline Johnson, parents of the Pastor.

■ MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, California, has called Rev. Jeffrey Pulling as its new Senior Pastor, and he began in January. Rev. Pulling is beginning his 24th year of ministry in UFMCC and is returning to California after 14 years in the Northeast District as an educator and District Coordinator.

■ Congratulations to Exodus MCC in Abilene, Texas who celebrated their 16th year anniversary in October of 1996. They are asking that friends lift them up in prayer that God will send them a permanent pastor.

■ January was the dawn of a new era for MCC of Bournemouth, England. For the first time in its eighteen year history they have their first full time staff member, Rev. Neil G. Thomas. Rev. Thomas has been Senior Pastor there for seven years part time and will now take on the challenge of full time Senior Pastor.

■ Congratulations to Rev. Gordon McCoy and Mr. Eugene Thomas of Resurrection MCC, Chicago, Illinois, who celebrated their 25th Anniversary in January.

■ Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, Florida is proud to announce the election of their new Senior Pastor, Rev. Tyrone Sweeting. Rev. Sweeting will be relocating from Boise, Idaho where he was Senior Pastor of MCC at Boise. The installation service for the new pastor was held in January with the District Coordinator, Rev. Judy Davenport presiding.

■ Congratulations to MCC of San Antonio, Texas on electing Rev. John Nicholas as their new Senior Pastor.

■ All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, Minnesota, announces the hiring of Pam Austad as a full time Director of Development. As Director, Pam will facilitate the MCC in securing funding for new programs, above and beyond the congregation's stewardship giving.

■ The Southwest District is proud to announce three new works in progress: one in Palm Springs, California that will hopefully begin soon with Rev. David Pelletier, pastor of MCC Maui as its pastor; a second one in Flagstaff, Arizona; and a third one in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, California.

Pilot Project Board To Be Set Up

The 1995 General Conference approved the "Pilot Projects" program that is supported by a portion of the 10% tithes UFMCC receives from local churches. Beginning in 1997 a half percent (1/2%) of the tithes will be put in a separate account "Pilot Projects Fund." The program's purpose is to provide funds to create stronger and healthier districts and global outreach areas.

The General Council has established a process and time line to implement this program. Applications will be available in March 1997 and the first set of grants will be awarded in November 1997.

A "Pilot Projects Board" will be appointed by the March Council meeting. This board reviews the proposals and makes decisions regarding awards and grant amounts to be made. The board will also review and evaluate the progress of the work by each award recipient.

The Board of Elders is seeking individuals to serve on the Pilot Projects Board. Applicants should be familiar with the structure and polity of UFMCC, have a background in non-profit (NGO) management and financial planning, familiarity with church growth issues and evaluation background. Please send your resume and references by March 5, 1997 to the attention of Mr. Ravi Verma at UFMCC, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Mark Your Calendars

February 14 - 16

South Central District

Heartwings Laity Conference

February 14 - 16

EXCEL Two Steppers Couples in Excel

Galveston, Texas

February 21 - 23

EXCEL in the Redwoods

Sausalito, California

March 11 - 18

Board of Elders/General Council Meeting

Los Angeles, California

March 21 - 23

Suitcase EXCEL Weekend

Pretoria, South Africa

Marsha Stevens and MCC shake up Lafayette, LA

Marsha Stevens' scheduled concert at Eglise Du Saint Esprit MCC, Lafayette, LA, precipitated some major changes for this small church. Stevens was scheduled to appear at the usual MCC worship space, in the Wesley Student Center, a university facility run by the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. As Marsha drove from Los Angeles to Louisiana for the concert, an article about her concert appeared in the local paper.

When the article appeared, the Board of the Wesley Center called an emergency meeting and cancelled the concert, and banned MCC from the facilities insisting that MCC find new facilities by the end of January. The United Methodist District Superintendent was quoted in The Daily Advertiser saying, "It has nothing to do with the fact that they are homosexuals. It's because we can't allow the promotion of homosexual lifestyle as a viable alternative."

Rev. Bev Stephenson, pastor of Eglise Du Saint Esprit MCC, hastily arranged to have the concert in the social hall of the First Lutheran Church. However, the Lutherans would not allow MCC or Marsha Stevens into their sanctuary.

The flurry of newspaper articles about the controversy has given MCC a new visibility in Lafayette. And in spite of the first freezing rain storm of the season, 40 people still managed to make it to Stevens' concert.

GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS WEB PAGE

New Web Sites

First a correction:

the new website for the Gulf Lower Atlantic District which was published in the Dec/Jan issue of Keeping in Touch had a typographical error - Sorry! The correct site is: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1490>.

The GLAD District also wants to report that their District now has 15 of its 30 churches online with their own home pages.

The Great Lakes District now has a Home Page and would like for you to visit them soon:

<http://www.GeoCities.com/WestHollywood/4047>.



Free Video Rental for Churches

Church World Service, a

division of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S., has a catalog of videos offered for free rental. The only cost is the shipping and handling to return the video. The videos are ideal for Christian education classes and cover a wide range of topics for a variety of ages. The videos bring global and faithful perspectives on the environment, women's issues, poverty, peacemaking and more. To receive a catalog, contact Church World Service at P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 USA, by phone at 1-800-456-1310 or on the Internet at cws_film_library:parti@ecunet.org

Deaf Ministry

An extensive list of resources for ministry with Deaf people, called Together in Ministry, is available from the Ministries in Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 848, New York, NY 10115. Included are extensive resource contacts, Christian education materials, hymnals for the deaf and videotapes available for sale and loan.

Educational Resources

For justice oriented materials for your small groups and Christian education classes, check out these resources:

Friendship Press Catalog: Books and Other Resources for Global Living:

an extensive catalog of books, maps and study guides that address issues of faith and life around the world. Available from: Friendship Press, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 860, New York, NY 10115 or toll-free at 1-800-8895733. The catalog is free and the materials are reasonably priced.

Resources for Global Education from Church World Service

includes curricula for adult education classes that range from free to \$3, plus the Facts Have Faces series of study/action guides (\$30 each or 4 for \$1). P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 USA or call 1-800-456-1310.

God's Earth Our Home:

a packet for congregational study and action on environmental and economic justice, Shantilal P. Bhagat, editor; includes 12 study sessions, worship resources, leader's guide and more for \$10 per packet. To order, call faith Quest at 1-800-441-3712.

Faith & Work: A Congregational Study Guide on Worker Justice, a six session study, including a leader's guide, video and participants materials; \$15 for leader's kit and \$3 for participants' study booklets; quantity discounts available. Contact the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, 1607 West Howard Street, Suite 218, Chicago, IL 60626 or call (312) 321-2832.

The Blanket Program:

an opportunity for churches to give blankets, school supplies, toiletry kits and other essential supplies to people around the world and to increase the global consciousness of your members. Contact Church World Service at P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 USA or call 1-800-456-1310.

A FELLOWSHIP OF ACTIVITY (CON'T)

■ Congratulations to Rev. Austin Amerine, Retired Clergy of Sacramento, California who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, and thanks to him for his faithful service and ministry in UFMCC.

■ New Life MCC, Norfolk, Virginia just signed a lease on a property four times larger than their current space. It is a beautiful building and will give them lots of opportunity to expand their ministry.

■ Lighthouse MCC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has purchased a new church building and asks for prayers as they begin their pastoral search process.

■ MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, had a wonderful building dedication celebration in Nov. 1996. Since they have moved to their own space they have doubled in attendance.

■ Congratulations to Ms. Margo Frasier, elected the first woman sheriff of Travis County, Texas. An open lesbian lawyer, Margo is a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee and former member of the Board of MCC Austin. Rev. Ken Martin, pastor of MCC Austin participated in her Oath of Office Ceremony in January 1997.

■ Excel International will be sending 11 people to do a weekend in South Africa in March; a great opportunity. Please keep them in your prayers.

■ MCC of Perth, West Australia e-mailed greetings from their members and gave us their new e mail address too: <doncamer~inet.net.au>.

■ ICM Cristo Sanador has opened in San Juan, Puerto Rico! Pablo Navarro and Margarita Sanchez are now co-pastors of this exciting new church in Global Outreach.

■ "Coffee angels". Several people around the UFMCC are selling coffee from Puerto Rico as a fundraising effort to assist our new church in Puerto Rico thanks to each of you!

PRAYERS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

■ Prayers are requested for Rev. Bob Arthur, Mountains & Plains District Coordinator and for Rev. Malcolm Boyd; both of whom just lost their mothers.

■ Please also keep in prayer Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey and Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart, as Jeri Ann's mother is getting weaker and Charlie's father is very ill.

■ Please continue to pray for Rev. Pat Leffler, pastor of Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, California who had her leg amputated, she is recovering very well.

■ Please keep Rev. Reid Christensen and First MCC of Atlanta, Georgia in prayer as his cancer has spread widely.

■ Prayers are requested for the family and friends of Dennis Chappell who recently passed away in Oregon.

■ Please keep Bishop Leontine Kelly (one of our guest speakers at the UFMCC Leadership Conference this past August) in your prayers as she had a stroke in September. She is recovering well and we wish her God's blessings and a speedy recovery.

■ Prayers for MCC of the Pomona Valley, Pomona, California and Water of Life MCC, Tucson, Arizona, as both their pastors resigned in January.

■ Please pray for the Board of Elders and General Council for their upcoming meeting which will be held March 11-18 at Headquarters in Los Angeles.

■ MCC Manila as it recovers from a fire which destroyed their worship space.

■ Rev. Judy Dahl and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson as they travel to Mexico City for a conference on women hosted by ICM Renovacion.

■ Rev. Jorge Sosa as he travels with Rev. Dahl to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Rev. Sosa will be in Argentina for a month of consultation.

CLERGY MANUAL

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Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. Keeping in Touch may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to Keeping in Touch, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8640, UFMCC E-mail: ufmccq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com> Deadline for each issue: 10th of previous month.

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members

Nancy Fackrell, Rev Steve Pieters

Meet Our New UFMCCHQ Staff



Mr. J. Hulsey-Mazur, the new UFMCC Controller, comes to us with experience in finance, development, and administration

for two different AIDS organizations, as well as several years in the Finance Department of Wells Fargo Bank. He served as a nuclear reactor operator for the US Navy until he was discharged in 1989 for being a homosexual. J was a Communications major at the University of Missouri, and completed two years of advanced math and physics at the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School. He enjoys a "wonderful relationship" with Andrew Rose, and he wants UFMCC to know, "It's a blessing for me to be able to do the kind of work I do, to advance the Church in the world, and I'm grateful for this ministry."



Ms. Yvonne Thompson is the new Executive Assistant to the Director of Administration. She brings a wealth of experience in administrative assistance and computer technology to

her position. Educated at Santa Monica Community College, the Venice Skills Center, and UCLA Extension, Yvonne has worked at the United Way, and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. She was the first Black woman in retail advertising with the Pittsburgh Press. She also had her own "Backstage Catering" business, feeding Grammy-award-winning reggae acts. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, she comes to Los Angeles via Columbus, Ohio. Her husband, Peter, is Jamaican, and Yvonne has a 13-year-old "tree of a son" named Curtis. She loves people, cooking, and computers. She states emphatically, "God sent me here!"



Ms. Catherine Houchins is our new Receptionist. She has previously worked as a junior and high school English teacher, as a reference librarian, and as an administrator and paraprofessional in the mental health field. She was Pastor of MCC Ventura from 1986-1990, and also served New Life MCC in Norfolk, VA. Catherine received her B.A. in English from Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, TN. When asked about her new job as Receptionist, she says, "It's good

to be back actively involved in our denomination." Please give her a warm welcome when she answers your call to UFMCC Headquarters!



James N. Birkitt, Jr. has joined the staff as Director of Communications. Jim brings a varied background of

experience to this new position. He has served as vice-president of a network of Christian radio stations, spent 12 years as an ordained Southern Baptist pastor, and was Director of Development and Administration at MCC Richmond. He comes to us from Opus Event Marketing in Richmond, VA, where he conducted marketing and public relations for Fortune 500 companies, including Philip Morris, Allied Signal, Trigo BlueCross/Blue Shield, Circuit City, and Merck Pharmaceuticals. He holds the B.A. degree in religious education from Washington Bible College, and studied at Capital Bible Seminary. Among his new duties with UFMCC, Jim will serve as editor of *Keeping In Touch*, develop public relations resources for local churches, and assist with marketing strategies for our denomination.

GENERAL CONFERENCE NATHAN

Lottery for Free General Conference Registration Announced

Concerned about your expenses to Conference in Australia? Want to help your local church's budget? Submit your paid Conference registration by March 1, and you may receive FREE registration. All paid registrations received postmarked by March 1, 1997 will be eligible for one of three free registrations drawn.

"You Are the Light of the World," General Conference Eighteen, is July 20-25 in Australia.

It's countdown to Sydney —

Only six months away! Where are you and your church in Conference preparation? Have you mailed in your registration form? More than one hundred people have already booked travel to General Conference to date. Have you? Clip and save this conference "checklist" as a reminder of the things to do very soon in order to be prepared for Conference "Down Under."

General Conference Eighteen Checklist

- _____ Mail Conference registration to UFMCC. (*Early registration deadline March 1—eligible for FREE registration. Request volunteer and other forms from UFMCC.*)
- _____ Make travel and lodging arrangements. (*Above and Beyond requires payment by April 1. Call 800-397-2681*)
- _____ Apply for passport and visa. (*This process can be lengthy. Contact Australian consulate for visa; country of origin for passport.*)
- _____ Check personal insurance to assure international coverage.

MCC Manila Rises Up From The Ashes

In the early hours of New Years Day, MCC Manila's church facility was destroyed by fire. Pastor Edgar Mendoza was alerted through a member of the church and resident of the building, shortly after one o'clock in the morning. The fire was thought to be caused by a stray firecracker.

Alvin O Santos and his partner lived in the church facility and lost their home. He sent notification by e-mail thanking us for any assistance we might be able to lend to them and/or the church.

In God's own providential way, the church in Manila had been seeking a new facility for their worship services. One had just been located but the congregation was uncertain about the move.

Three days later the church was destroyed by fire. Last Sunday, the first Sunday of January 1997, MCC Manila met in their new church home with record attendance and a large number of first time visitors! Even though the church lost their equipment and most of their church supplies, Pastor Mendoza believes the fire was a blessing in disguise for the local church. In a visit this past weekend to MCC of the Resurrection in Houston, Texas, a special plea was made to that congregation to assist MCC Manila as it recovers from this loss. Thank you for your generous giving, MCCRI!

Please keep this church in your prayers and remember the two members who lost their home. If you are able to assist in helping the church recover from this fire, please mail a check payable to: **UFMCC to UFMCC Headquarters with a note designating it to MCC Manila.**

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

ATTENTION GAY SERVICEMEMBERS! Know your legal rights: Say nothing, Sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

MCC CHARLOTTESVILLE SEEKS pastor with commitment to inclusiveness, community involvement and church growth. Part-time position. Letters of interest: Carlton Dickerson, 2402 Smithfield Road, Charlottesville, VA, 22901. E-mail: carlos47@juno.com.

TRINITY MCC seeks a full-time visionary pastor for our 65 member chartered church. Located equal distance between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean near the University of Florida. Congregation owns church on 6+ acres. Ministries include worship celebration, outreach and Christian education. Send letter of interest or request for application packet to: Search Committee, PO Box 140535, Gainesville, FL 32614.

MOTHER RIVER SPIRIT MCC presents, MoonSisters Drum Camp for Womyn, April 4-6, Sausalito, CA. Celebrate diversity. Worship - classes - performances. INFO: POB 20918, Oakland, CA 94620, (510) 547-8386, Ycdrumcamp@aol.com.

SAVE UP TO 80% on dental, vision, & prescriptions. Community friendly. \$15 monthly per household. For free information call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949.

BROKERS NEEDED: Full, part time. Excellent commissions & training. Own your business & help our community. Call 1-888-711-2742 PIN 0949 for free information.

MCC NORTH LONDON, ENGLAND; a rapidly growing chartered church with a vision for the year 2000 and beyond, is seeking applicants for a part-time salaried pastor with potential to become full-time. Are you called to serve in one of the world's lesbian/gay capitals? Enquiries to: (Pastoral Search Committee, Clerk), Nigel J Utting, 17a Beech Road, London, N11 2DA. UK. [e-mail: 106141.3250@compuserve.com]. Closing date for applications: 30 March '97.

MCC RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 18 year old growing congregation of more than 200 members seeks Senior Pastor who can foster continued spiritual growth through small group lay ministry and provide leadership within the G/L/B/T and religious communities. Gender balanced, inclusive congregation with own building offers strong ministry in the areas of music, HIV/AIDS, social justice, and small groups. Contact Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 6, Gum Spring, Virginia 23065.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

UFMCC Full Member of CA Council of Churches

The California Council of Churches has voted unanimously to make UFMCC a full member of the Council. At the end of November, leadership of the CCC visited West Hollywood to learn more about MCC.



■ **Above** Front row: Rev. Cathy Cooper Ledesman, President of the California Council of Churches; Dr. Gwynne Guibord, UFMCC Representative to the CCC; Rev. Nancy Wilson. Second row: Rev. Don Eastman; Mr. Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the CCC; Mr. Jim Scurlock and Rev. John Freesmann, of the CCC.

GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL



Advent Angels Spotted Around the Globe!

THANK YOU...

Several angels have flown over Global Outreach since Advent responding very generously to the funding appeal and checks are still coming in. If you or your church have a gift to send and you have just been unable to get to it until now, great we'd love to hear from you!



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Top 20 Tithes - December 1996

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$8,525.19
2. MCC Washington, DC \$3,614.76
3. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL \$3,482.25
4. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO \$2,440.76
5. MCC San Francisco, CA \$2,355.96
6. MCC New York, NY \$2,353.19
7. MCC San Diego, CA \$2,204.16
8. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL \$2,133.14
9. First MCC of Atlanta, GA \$1,657.29
10. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX \$1,639.23
11. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO \$1,603.97
12. MCC Richmond, VA \$1,538.11
13. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX \$1,359.42
14. Covenant MCC, Birmingham, AL \$1,231.16
15. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN \$1,194.14
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS \$1,149.29
17. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL \$1,123.32
18. Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD \$1,121.60
19. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$1,114.39
20. MCC Charleston, SC \$1,039.69

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

Top 20 Per Capita - December 1996

1. MCC in Charlottesville, VA \$51.41
2. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO \$36.60
3. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS \$36.05
4. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN \$34.31
5. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA \$31.53
6. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$29.96
7. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA \$28.24
8. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$24.41
9. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY \$23.41
10. Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL \$22.45
11. MCC San Jose, CA \$22.20
12. MCC New York, NY \$21.71
13. MCC New Haven, CT \$21.33
14. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL \$21.12
15. MCC Charleston, SC \$20.75
16. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA \$20.06
17. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO \$19.63
18. MCC of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, PA \$19.57
19. MCC Albuquerque, NM \$19.48
20. Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI \$19.02

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]

Top 20 Tithes - November 1996

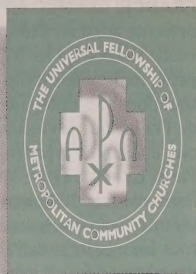
1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX \$8,221.55
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX \$3,244.92
3. MCC Washington, DC \$2,771.70
4. MCC New York, NY \$1,911.90
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL \$1,868.73
6. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL \$1,543.58
7. MCC New Haven, CT \$1,299.59
8. MCC Richmond, VA \$1,204.80
9. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO \$1,168.14
10. River City MCC, Sacramento, CA \$1,092.63
11. St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC \$980.14
12. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX \$958.65
13. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL \$955.83
14. MCC Seattle, WA \$943.27
15. MCC Charleston, SC \$939.90
16. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO \$890.66
17. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX \$847.11
18. MCC Charlotte, NC \$812.14
19. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS \$802.78
20. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$750.30

[These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.]

Top 20 Per Capita - November 1996

1. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY \$43.08
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA \$40.61
3. MCC New Haven, CT \$38.34
4. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS \$35.69
5. Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL \$34.71
6. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA \$33.42
7. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO \$31.25
8. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA \$31.09
9. MCC Bridgeland, Logan, UT \$29.47
10. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA \$28.14
11. MCC New York, NY \$27.79
12. MCC of Paducah, KY \$25.86
13. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO \$25.79
14. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA \$25.78
15. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC \$25.72
16. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA \$25.61
17. MCC Charleston, SC \$25.33
18. MCC Albuquerque, NM \$24.88
19. Eternal Light MCC, Lacey, WA \$24.83
20. Diablo Valley MCC, Concord, CA \$24.72

[These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.]



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

December 1996
January 1997

Coming Home For Christmas

On Christmas Eve in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 2800 people will fill the Broward Center For the Performing Arts to celebrate an annual tradition begun in 1991 by the Sunshine Cathedral MCC. For Pastor Grant Ford, the highlight of the celebration will be the moment when hundreds

COVER STORY REV ELDER DON EASTMAN

step forward to receive anointing with oil and a special prayer. With tears streaming down their faces, many people who have not been to a church in years will experience a moment of healing, and a new measure of hope. This event is a good point of first contact for many who would not come to a church, and often leads individuals to the discovery of a new church home.

While most Metropolitan Community Churches observe Christmas with special celebrations, what is unique for a growing number of congregations is the focus on Christmas Eve as a major time of outreach for community-wide participation.

Distinctively, these churches obtain a larger,

often prominent, venue other than their regular place of worship for the event. The emphasis is on excellence. High quality promotion, extensive advertising, an attractive program book or bulletin, and superb music in a carefully planned worship service presented with precision, all combine to offer a memorable worship experience.

Featuring Christmas Eve as a special event is not limited to large churches. MCC in Sydney Australia, for instance, is a church of 78 members. At the 1995 UFMCC General Conference, MCC Sydney Board members Matthew Boniface and Bruce Gray attended a workshop which featured the Christmas Eve service as an outreach event. Through their initiative, the local congregation rented a 500-seat theater and planned a celebration which included the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir. Pastor Greg Smith cites this event as one of the most effective means of outreach ever attempted by the congregation; "The theater was filled to capacity, and the community found a joyous, uplifting and affirming sense of the meaning of Christmas." This year, MCC has rented the prestigious 2000-seat Sydney

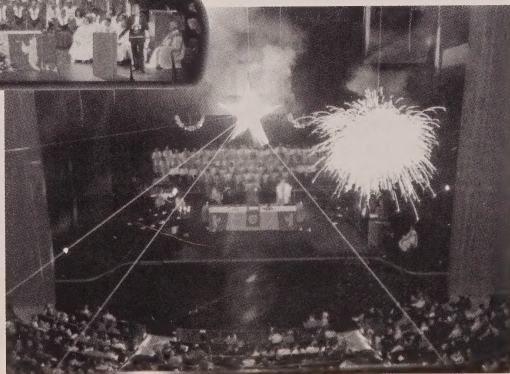
Town Hall, and 20 community sponsors have already paid for the event. MCC Perth, a smaller church on the opposite side of Australia heard of the idea, and decided to have a special Christmas Eve Celebration at a local public park on the banks of a river. To their amazement more than 250 people gathered for the event. This year they expect more than 500.

Pastor Brent Hawkes of MCC Toronto sees Christmas Eve as one of the greatest opportunities for evangelism available to churches. Since 1991, his congregation has rented the massive Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto to present a remarkable celebration which consistently wins MCC a reputation for excellence. More important though, is the impact on the many who attend this spiritually transforming event. "A moment of remembrance for those we have lost, recognition of parents in attendance, and the participation of many from the community in our festival choir are examples of a community coming home for Christmas," says Rev. Hawkes. Last year more than 2,900 people crowded Thomson Hall, where ushers unfortunately had to turn away another 400.

Christmas is a time when many people experience loneliness, isolation and depression, rather than joy and celebration. Many MCC congregations find this a time for one of their greatest opportunities in ministry. Pastor Grant Ford knows that on Christmas Eve more than 800 people will be celebrating with the Sunshine Cathedral for the first time. Among them will be some who, in this moment, have found healing, hope and a new home.



■ **Christmas Eve** in the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Internet Church Resources

At General Conference 1995, in Atlanta, Georgia, Rev. Elder Troy Perry challenged us to become computer literate. Like many of you, it takes me a while to catch up with the Moderator. Recently though, I preached a sermon which was researched entirely on the Internet.

Let me share just a few of the thousands of excellent resources for preaching/teaching/ pastoring that might be found on the World Wide Web.

► "A Pastor's Resource Page" <http://www.accsyst.com/jhaslett/Pastors.htm> - This is one of the most comprehensive lists of available resources I've found. It offers exegesis, search and research tools, daily devotions, sermons, and illustrations. You can even take the Myers-Briggs on-line and have it scored instantly. Other similar sources include Christianity Net, Christian WebGuide, Chrisnet, Goshen, and Christian Community Network. (On the Christian Community Network you can actually listen to Christian radio stations from around the world).

► The second way I have found the Internet invaluable is the links to theological libraries. Vanderbilt Divinity Library has some great resources including a page on "Black Theology" and "African-American Religious Research." There are also links to Pitt Library at Emory, Miami Christian University, Andover-Harvard (which includes a page for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender resources). "Libweb" provides a listing of libraries on the web in 45 different countries.

► The other way I have found the Internet helpful has been Church Web pages. Many of them have copies of sermons that I enjoy reading. Duke Chapel has sermons preached on a wide range of topics. I love Mark Trotter's sermons at First United Methodist in San Diego, California. ECULAUGH has some good jokes, though the one I used Sunday made everyone groan. There is even a Web page for the community at Taizé which can be accessed in six different languages.

I am certainly no expert at surfing the net, but it isn't hard to find plenty of available resources. There is little doubt that this is where we are headed. So, we may as well get those "surfboards" out and get wet.

Rev. Michael Piazza is Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, Texas



Christmas Greetings From Around the World

GERMANY: In the Age of AIDS, God send us "Emmanuel". God with us. Be not afraid. Love and Peace to all! Christmas greetings from Aids Ministry, MCC Hamburg, Germany.

UNITED KINGDOM: This year in Manchester, UK, we are celebrating a new worship space for our congregation in the heart of our City centre and also the appointment of our new pastor, Rev. Andy Braunston who founded and formerly pastored MCC East London. As part of our outreach programme we will be carol singing in the Gay Village in the week before Christmas, raising money for the local lesbian and gay switchboard and inviting people to our Christmas services.

EASTERN CANADIAN DISTRICT: On behalf of the Eastern Canadian District, all of our spiritual family around the world is wished a most joyous Christmas, full of the light of Christ's love and the hope of liberation and wholeness for all. Again, our churches will celebrate our risen Lord's birth and various services of Lessons and Carols, special Christmas meals and gatherings, large and small. Our Christmas venues range from small home and church services, to sites in barns complete with animals, to the large concert facility rented by MCC Toronto. In all instances, thoughts of peace, health, holiness and wholeness will be uppermost in the minds of the MCCers in Eastern Canada. Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noel!

BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND: Sending Christmas Greetings across the waters to our sisters and brothers of Metropolitan Community Church wherever you are. Christmas is often called a time of family' and which other fellowship could you honestly relate to each other like a family other than MCC? Proud to be a part of all of you...your sisters and brothers at Metropolitan Community Church of Bournemouth, England.

FRANCE: L'UFMCC est très présente aussi en Europe, cette vieille Europe ou les pays sont petite mais pleins d'histoire et de traditions très différentes. C'est de France que je vous envoie ce clin doeil, plus précisément de Paris. La petite église MCC de Paris avec ses 109 pierres vivantes vous souhaite à vous, tous les membres de l'UFMCC dans le monde, un joyeux Noël et vous adresse tous ses vœux de bonheur pour l'année 1997, et que nous puissions continuer d'être si "gays" dans l'amour de Dieu!

UFMCC is also very present in Europe, old Europe with small countries, but countries full of history and of very different traditions. I wink at you from France, more precisely from Paris. The small church of Paris with its 109 lively stones wish you, all the members of UFMCC around the world, a merry Christmas and send you their best wishes for the New Year 1997, and pray we may go on being gay in the Lord's love.

La UFMCC esta tambien muy presente en Europa, la vieja Europa con sus paisajes pequeños pero llenos de historia y tradiciones muy diferentes. Desde Francia que les envío este guiño, de Paris más preciso, la iglesia MCC Paris con sus 109 piedras vivas les desea a todos los miembros de la UFMCC en el mundo entero una feliz Navidad y un prospero año nuevo 1997 y que podamos continuar siendo "gays", alegres en el amor de Cristo. Que Dios les bendiga.

AUSTRALIA: As Christmas approaches the temperature rises as we head into summer. Christmas in Australia is a time of long hot summer days when the traditions of Christmas mix with those of the beach, barbecues and summer holidays. Churches around the country celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways, from an open air carol service for 500 in Perth to a traditional celebration for 2000 in the Sydney Town Hall. No matter where we live in Australia, or how we celebrate, we are united in the love and hope that is symbolized by the birth of the Christ Child. It

ADDITIONAL READING

The Non-Profit guide to the Internet by Robbin Zeff, Ph.D.

Surveys the hardware and software necessary to getting online; Explores the exciting potential of cyber-fundraising with real world examples from online campaigns; Devotes an entire chapter to cyberspace law for nonprofits; Illustrates nonprofit uses of the web with case studies, charts and dozens of screen shots; Contains a valuable multimedia bibliography, a handy glossary and a directory of nonprofit web sites. This book is available from La-Dana Jenkins, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158, 800-753-0655, ext.4457. (ISBN 0-471-15359-1, Price \$34.95)

is our prayer that all of our brothers and sisters in the UFMCC around the world are able to celebrate the love of our God this Christmas and look forward with hope to the new year. Love and blessings from your MCC family in Australia.

MEXICO: Por mi conducto los santos y santas que conforman las Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana de Latinoamerica y el Caribe les hacen llegar, junto con nuestra más profunda gratitud por su fructifera y amorosa labor de cada día para el bienestar de nuestra Fraternidad, la más sincera, calurosa y entusiasta felicitación por la celebración de estas fiestas navideñas que se aproximan en que celebramos no solo el nacimiento historico de Jesús en el mundo, sino, ante todo, el nacimiento del incommensurable e incondicional amor de Jesús en cada día de nuestra vida, nacimiento que nos fortalece y nos impulsa a seguir cuidando y cultivando el paraíso que. Dios ya nos ha dado para que, como fruto de ese esfuerzo, sean cada vez mas los hermanos y hermanas que decidan aceptar nuestra constante invitación, confrontacion y motivacion para disfrutar y compartir la prosperidad que gratuitamente el amor de Dios ha dado a nuestra vida. Con la firmeza y seguridad de que la presencia de ustedes es permanente en nuestro corazón, nuestro trabajo y nuestra oración, pedimos a Dios que les bendiga con paz, bienestar y prosperidad

en estas fiestas y a lo largo de un año que comienza ofrecen donos una nueva oportunidad para mantenernos despiertos/as y actuantes en la santidad de ese Dios que nunca nos deja de amar.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: Christmas greetings from MCC Melbourne - although we have difficulty interpreting traditional Christmas cards since we are melting in the heat, we find it hard to visualize the holly, the snow and the reindeer. And who wants to work over a hot oven on a hot day? However, we do herald in Christmas with an inspiring Christmas eve service, at which we will remember all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Peace and blessings to you all.

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO, USA: On Christmas Eve, we drive through the snows of our town, looking at the bright lights on the houses, and gather to worship. We pause to celebrate the birth of Christ who has called us together as a community - no longer isolated, no longer hidden, but bound to sisters and brothers throughout the world. Each candle lit, each lesson read, each carol sung draws us deeper into the mystery of God's self-giving love. By the end of the service, the whole church is ablaze with twelve dozen candles, and the soft light shines on every face as we sing "Silent Night". We know then that we are not alone. God is with us - Emmanuel - in Christ and in community. May Emmanuel be with your church community as with ours!

DISTRICTS FLORIDA

MCC of Key West Joins "Holiday Parade"

Key West Commissioners have granted a permit for a December 7 Christmas parade held by the Lower Keys Ministerial Assoc. This association of some local pastors excluded the Metropolitan Community Church of Key West from the parade last year, because of MCC's association with the lesbian and gay community. A protest prayer vigil was peacefully held during the pastors' parade last year.

The Commissioners initially

refused to issue the parade permit this year unless they excluded no one. The pastor's association defended their "private parade" on First Amendment grounds, citing a U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow a Boston veteran's group to exclude lesbians and gay men from their St. Patrick's Day Parade.

However, the Commissioners decided to hold their own "Holiday Parade" on December 14. No one will be excluded from this parade. In addition to MCC, other participants will include local city agencies and Key West High School.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

General Council Planning Into Next Century

The new home of MCC Los Angeles, 8714 Santa Monica Blvd., was the location of the General Council Meeting held from October 18 to October 21. The meeting space in this facility worked very well and was less expensive than meeting in a hotel.

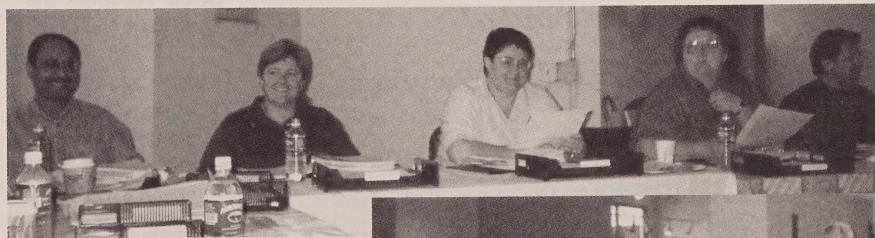
One of the key parts of this meeting was a two day consultation with Ms. Jennifer Rutledge, Vice President and Partner of Delphi Consulting Group, Inc. She led the Council in developing a vision statement and a strategic plan that will lead us into the next century. Her work included looking at Council's role and the relationship between Elders/DC's and Staff. It was a powerful process that will help the Council

to more effectively do its work and focus on planning for the future.

Another invited guest was Ms. JoNee Shelton, the Chair of The Commission on the Laity. Ms. Shelton attended the entire meeting as an observer with voice but no vote. She, along with Elder Larry Rodriguez, led the General Council in a forum on Lay Leadership and helped the Council look at issues around the meaning of "priesthood of all believers" and the ways in which we do and do not live out these values.

In addition the Council approved an application process for the "pilot projects", developed a realistic budget for 1997, approved the clergy manual and a revised policy manual.

The Council also expressed their appreciation to Rev. Elder Don Eastman and staffperson Ms. Nancy Fackrell for their 10th anniversary of service at the UFMCC Headquarters.



■ **Above** General Council at work during October 1996 Meeting.

■ **Right** General Council members closed their October 1996 meetings with worship.



**►Robert Schuller Institute
for Successful Leadership**

January 27-30, 1997
at Crystal Cathedral

**►Strategic Growth
Initiative Conference**

January 31, 1997
at MCC Long Beach

►Technology Summit

January 31-February 1, 1997
at MCC Los Angeles

The Strategic Growth Initiative Team is sponsoring a conference on January 31st to be held at MCC Long Beach. It is designed to help the MCC participants at the Schuller Conference to discuss how we can apply what we learned to an MCC context. It will also provide a time for networking and looking at what the most pressing needs are for training and resources. This conference is free and will be held at MCC Long Beach.

"Church For The 21st Century!" is the theme for the first-ever summit on technology that will be held January 31 - February 1, 1997 at the new facilities in West Hollywood, CA. The special guest speaker for this summit will be Mr. Tom Reilly, founder and President of PlanetOut, a worldwide online community geared to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Registration for this summit is \$95 if sent in by Jan. 24, 1997. On-site registration will be an extra \$25 for a total of \$120. Hotel rooms are available at the Ramada Hotel in West Hollywood for \$65 per night.

For information and a registration form contact the UFMCC Headquarters at: (mention Technology Summit) 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; phone: (310) 360-8640; fax: (310) 360-8680; e-mail: ufmccqh@aol.com; a registration form and information can be found on the UFMCC web page at <http://www.ufmcc.com>.

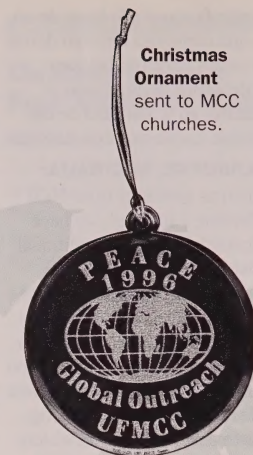
**Global Outreach
Sends Christmas Gifts
To Churches**

During the Advent Season, Global Outreach is sending out a special early Christmas gift. The Christmas ornament pictured here is the first annual Christmas gift from our Global Outreach of the UFMCC. It is designed to get us to think of our sisters and brothers all over the world... especially the ones we don't know yet. Pray for them... and then consider what we can give!

I'm asking each church to give one dollar for every member. I am also sending a letter to individual UFMCC lay and clergy leaders, and I'm asking them to send one dollar for every year they have been a member of the UFMCC.

With your help through this funding appeal we can:

- send someone to South Africa to work with our new groups there for 3 months; our growth in the Philippines has shown us what an important model this can be.
- send someone to Buenos Aires to help stabilize that



**Christmas
Ornament**
sent to MCC
churches.

ministry and reach out to Brazil and other parts of South America.

- help fund people from a Global Outreach country to the Sydney General Conference.
- set up fax equipment for every existing Global Outreach country and move toward getting each country on-line to help facilitate connection and communication.

Imagine for a moment what it would be like to be the only MCC in your country or continent! Now dream with us for a moment and imagine what it will be like

when we:

- have 3 new countries represented at the next World Jubilee, (imagine Spain, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, China...)
- are able to personally connect by e-mail or fax with every church in the UFMCC... around the globe!

At this time of year, everybody wants something. Everyone wants an opportunity to give something where it counts. Global Outreach UFMCC is no exception.

No one else, nowhere else in the world will reach out to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians this Christmas season.

If you would like to receive this special ornament and have the opportunity to give a gift to our sisters and brothers all over the globe, Please contact:

Rev. Judy Dahl
UFMCC Global Outreach
8704 Santa Monica Blvd.
Second Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Phone: (310) 360-8640
Fax: (310) 360-8680
E-mail: UFMCCHQ@aol.com

Please remember us.
Thank you and Merry Christmas!

*Wishing You
A Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from the Staff at
UFMCC Global Headquarters*

*Dan Blacker, Rev. Dana Cagle, Rev. Judy Dahl,
Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Nancy Jackrell, Bob Heydt,
Roi Hudson-Anaya, Margaret Mahlman, David
Martin, Elsa Martinez, Nathan Meckley, Rev. Elder
Troy Perry, Rev. Steve Pieters, Rev. Maggie Tanis,
Jivonne Thompson, Ravi Verma and Frank Zerilli*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

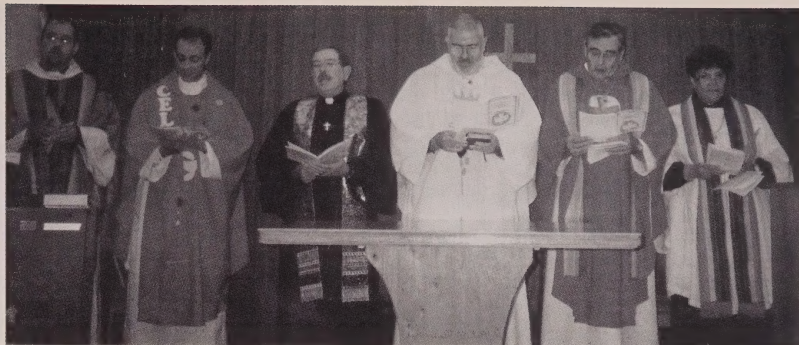
**The UFMCC Resource
Center will be closed
December 23, 1996 to
January 3, 1997
for the Christmas and
New Years Holidays,
and
January 13, 1997 to
January 17, 1997
for inventory.**

**The next issue of
Keeping In Touch
will be out in
February 1997.
The deadline for
submissions is
January 10, 1997.**

European Capital Campaign Tour

On Saturday, October 26, 1996, rejoicing that "UFMCC is alive and well in the European District!", Rev. Elder Perry officiated, with Pastor David Miller, at the dedication of the new church home of Whosoever MCC in Brighton, England. A beautiful Sanctuary, a Fellowship Hall and kitchen, and a suite of offices are included in the recently purchased facilities.

Assisting in the Saturday Dedication ceremonies, along with a full house of worshippers, were Rev. Elder Jean White, founding Pastor of MCC London, and Rev. Roy Beaney, European District Coordinator. Also participating were Whosoever's Assistant Pastor, Rev. Jim McManus, Deacon Gerald



Hughes, and Capital Campaign co-chair, Rev. David Farrell. At Worship Service on Sunday morning, as Rev. Perry shared his "Vision: For The Next Generation", the Whosoever MCC congregation responded with a generous offering to the Capital Campaign.

The Brighton visit marked the beginning of Rev. Perry's recent Capital Campaign Tour of MCC's

in England, Scotland, and France. The European Tour, which also included Clergy Ordination ceremonies in London and Paris, created excitement and attracted much media attention, along with record attendance and offerings in the MCC's visited. Watch for additional articles and a photo gallery of the tour in subsequent issues of Keeping in

■ **Dedication of new church in Brighton, England** (left to right) Rev. Jim MacManus, Rev. Roy Beaney, Rev. David Farrell, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Rev. David Miller, Rev. Elder Jean White.

Touch and on the UFMCC Global Headquarters website (<http://www.ufmcc.com>).

DISTRICTS CONFERENCES

GLAD - GULF LOWER ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE

"We Shall Prevail" was the theme for the Fall conference of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District held at the Downtown Radisson Hotel in Charlotte, NC, Nov 15-17. District Coordinator, Rev. Jay Neely, characterized the Conference as "another" very successful meeting of the GLAD Churches. The Conference welcomed two new worshipping bodies: Grace Fellowship MCC, Hendersonville, NC and St. Barnabas MCC, Macon, GA. On Saturday night, special guest, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein brought the message at the worship service. Rev. Elder Hein also spoke at the Friday night dinner about UFMCC and Global Outreach. Rev. Glenna Shepherd brought the message on Friday night, and Rev. Neely on Sunday morning. Attendance Sunday night was 500, with nearly four hundred in attendance Friday and Saturday. Mandy Carter, veteran Civil Rights activist addressed the breakfast meeting of the conference and conducted a workshop on the Church and Civil Rights. Elected to the District Committee were Don Wolford, St. Mary's MCC as Treasurer, and Rev. Patricia Voelker, Columbia MCC, as Clergy Representative. Sharon Lindenbaum, St. Mary's MCC, was re-elected as Clerk. Retiring from the committee were Rev. Reid Christensen, after six years of service, and Mr. Dennis Luft, who had been the treasurer for 11 years. David Heid of St. John's MCC was the Music Director, and MCC Charlotte and MCC New Life, Charlotte were the host churches. Workshops included seminars on Transgenderism; Reconciliation; The New Frontier: Technology; and Gay/Lesbian dating in the 90's; among others.

MAD - MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Mid-Atlantic District held its annual Fall Conference in Laurel, Maryland, Nov 1-2 - it's largest conference ever in a hotel setting. This year's theme was "Sexuality: Created in The Image of God." A highlight of this year's conference was the presence of two new MCC's: MCC Rehoboth of Rehoboth, Delaware, and Appalachian MCC of Charleston, West Virginia. Workshops and roundtables were offered on integrating spiritually and sexuality, gay parenting, Holy Unions, church music, introduction to UFMCC and the 12 steps. Rev. Dr.

Mona West, Dean of Samaritan Institute of Religious Studies, was the conference keynote speaker and the special guest musician was San Francisco-based artist Jallen Rix.

NED - NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The theme for this conference was "Our Tribe the Light of the World." Held in Boston, Massachusetts, November 6-8, 1996, workshops included training for the Internet and one called Evangelism for the Shy. The guest speaker for the conference was Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, joined also by Rev. Diane Fisher, from Canada, who is the Chair of the Women's Secretariat program of UFMCC. A Forum was held on the direction of the Northeast District, which resulted in the appointment of a commission to study further developments in this area. Rev. Sheila Rawls, Northeast District Coordinator said, "It was a very successful conference, many difficult issues were dealt with, but there was a real sense that MCCs of the Northeast District continue to be the light in the Northeast United States." A special election was held for District offices. The new Treasurer is Mr. Sean Fitzpatrick, from Morning Star MCC in Worcester, Massachusetts and the newly elected Clerk is Rev. Bill Gordon from Northern Lights MCC in Augusta, Maine.

SED - SOUTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

"Hope for the Future" was the theme for the conference, held in Tampa, Florida. Rev. Elder Don Eastman was the guest speaker, and also held a Risk Management workshop. District representatives elected were: Rev. Judy Davenport re-elected by acclamation to a four year term as District Coordinator; Bob Ewart, Sunshine Cathedral, Ft. Lauderdale, Treasurer; Andy Cordero, King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, Clerk; and Earl Waters, King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, lay representative to the BOM. Workshop themes included Computers and the Church, Maximizing Ministry of Music in the Church, Stewardship, and Excel of the Sun presented a workshop. Mr. Cordero commented in a telephone interview, "I sense a strong sense of rejuvenation and unity among all the churches in the district, unity and bonding among clergy and laity, and a strong sense of support for the district leadership."

■ Congratulations to MCC of the Rainbow in Jackson, Mississippi, who finalized the purchase of their new building on Oct. 9th. A Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving was held Oct. 27th as prayers and thanksgivings were offered.

■ December 4th will mark Rev. Christine Oscar's 13th year anniversary as Pastor of St. Mary's MCC in Greensboro, North Carolina. A celebration is planned which will include evangelist Rev. Delores Berry, and District Coordinator Rev. Jay Neely.

■ MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas will hold an installation service for their newly elected Senior Pastor, Rev. Dwayne Johnson.

■ MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, Florida celebrated their 15th Anniversary with events throughout the months of October and November, which included an Anniversary Dance and Dinner and a worship celebration.

■ Congratulations to Rev. Paul Evans who received the Toby Award in Topeka, Kansas for "outstanding service to the gay community." It was presented to him during the 1996 Gay Pride Week events.

■ The Gulf Lower Atlantic District now has a web site: (<http://www.geocities.com/Westhollywood/490>). Beverly Mitzel of MCC Charlotte designed the site. This web page has links to district churches.

■ Congratulations to the Choral Department of MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, California as they recently were selected by the Disneyland Entertainment Division from over 150 church, school and civic choirs to participate with 25 choral groups in the Disneyland Candlelight Procession and Ceremony held in December. Half of the choral groups will participate in each evening's events, and MCC Valley Choir will appear in the Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 15th.

■ MCC Richmond, Virginia has asked Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart to serve as their Interim Pastor for six to eight months. MCC Richmond has experienced 400% growth in membership over the past four years.

■ Congratulations to Rev. Jim Norwood who returned to Waco, Texas to serve as a grand marshal for the city's first-ever Gay Pride Parade.

■ Praise God! West Virginia will begin a new church in December, after many years of that state not having a church in that area. This new MCC will be named Appalachian MCC and will hold services in Charleston, West Virginia. The Church's pastoral leader will be Becky Dickman.

■ Rev. Dexter Brecht, pastor of Vieux Carre' MCC, New Orleans, Louisiana, was recently invited to serve as a member of the Mayor's Council of Religious Advisors. He also was elected as a co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay community center in New Orleans.

■ Congratulations to Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, Florida who just elected Rev. Tyrone Sweeting as their new pastor. Rev. Sweeting was previously the pastor of MCC at Boise, Idaho.

■ Rev. Earle Lewis has resigned as the pastor of MCC Omaha, Nebraska, and the Board has hired Rev. Sharon Sloot to be the interim pastor for six months while they begin a pastoral search process. Keep Sharon and the church in your prayers.

■ Praises to Christian Community MCC, Parish Extension for Seattle MCC. They celebrated their 100th worship service on November 17th. They requested that 5,000 people pray with them on that day to help them feed 5,000 people in their town of Yakima, Washington. Nineteen MCCs responded with the approximate total of 4,200 people. Rev. Jane Emma Newell said in a telephone interview, "We thank all of those who prayed with us and we know that through prayer we can continue God's work in Yakima."

Staff Changes "For Such A Time As This"

Scripture tells us that "For such a time as this" certain people are called to serve in a particular way to meet the needs of the community. Three such people who have faithfully answered such a call to serve at the International Headquarters of UFMCC have now answered other calls in their life.

Ms. Margaret Mahlman, UFMCC



Controller, since May of 1995 is leaving to take the position as the tax manager for ASC, a company that owns several surgical care centers. Margaret, with her experience as a Certified Public Accountant and her endless efforts, was monumentally instrumental in refining the UFMCC financial accounting and reporting procedures, and in setting up the entire financial and management systems for the capital campaign. She has also served as the key staff person on the Joint Operating Policies Committee and a key resource on personnel, tax insurance and risk management issues.

Rev. Dana Cagle has served as the Assistant to the Director of Administration for three years. Ravi Verma and Dana had mutually agreed that she would leave after she was ordained. Dana is leaving to be the pastor of the newly joined congregation of For All the Saints MCC in Silverlake and MCC Glendale. Dana has set the mold for this position and brought her incredible skills of organization, focus, planning, and customer service to help the entire office. She has organized the UFMCC filing system, done research on a myriad of subjects - travel agencies, insurance, personnel policies, etc. Ravi says, "Dana's competence helped me enormously in focusing on the big picture, and having the confidence that she would follow

through faithfully on all her responsibilities."

Ms. Elsa Martinez has served as



Marketing/Administrative Assistant for three years. She is leaving to pursue her dream to work as an actor

in television, movies and advertising. She has already appeared in a video on MTV and in a U.S. commercial for a car. She needs the flexibility to focus on pursuing this career. Elsa brought a unique combination of creativity, planning and thorough follow-through to a variety of jobs. She has served as the Assistant to the Clerk of the Board of Elders, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, for the General Council and General Conference. She managed the Resource Center and brought a level of excellence to the promotion, delivery and customer service functions. She has also worked on managing "Keeping in Touch", the graphic and printing functions, sending press releases, etc.

We will miss the gifts that these three staff people so generously shared with us and the whole denomination. For serving "for such a time as this" they have our gratitude and we pray God's blessing on them in their new ventures.

[Watch for new staff people to be introduced in the next issue.]

What's New on the UFMCC Web Page

UFMCC's Web Page is continually updated with new features, articles, and information vital to those involved in the life of UFMCC. Currently, there is new information on:

- The Guest Speaker and Schedule for the UFMCC Technology Summit;
- Australia General Conference preview and registration forms, in Spanish and English;
- Rev. Elder Troy Perry's visit to Whosoever MCC in Brighton, England;
- And the first photos of Rev. Perry's Capital Campaign Tour. The UFMCC Web Page also features "UFMCC In The News."

Current articles include the Christian Century interview with Rev. Elder Perry, the Washington Post front page story on UFMCC, and Rev. Steve Pieters' journal from the Quilt Display.

The UFMCC Web Page can be accessed at <<http://www.ufmcc.com>>. Rev. David Farrell serves as the UFMCC Web Page staff.

GENERAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

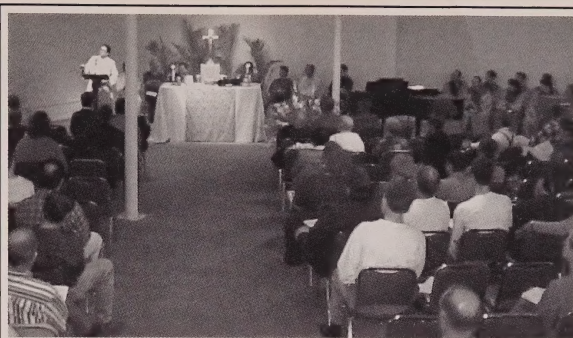
"You are the Light of My World" *Matthew 5:14*

As Reverend Perry writes, "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! You will not want to miss General Conference in Australia! We are only months away from the beginning of the 1997 General Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. During my visits to more than 70 churches this year so many people have walked up to me saying, 'we will see you in Australia.' From every indication this General Conference may be one of the best attended by rank and file members, in addition to our clergy and delegates, that we have ever had!"

UFMCC General Conference will be held at the Sydney Convention Centre, Sunday, July 20 through Friday, July 25, 1997 in Sydney, Australia. This is a General Conference you don't want to miss!

Highlights include:

- Sunday evening Opening Rally and reception at historic Sydney Town Hall
- Worship celebrations featuring compelling preachers, inspiring music and moving liturgy
- Special speakers including Alan Boesak, noted South African anti-apartheid activist and theologian
- Workshops and plenary sessions to equip and empower ministry
- Networking, fellowship and fun with MCC'ers from around the world
- Sunset cruise on sparkling Sydney Harbour
- Most international General Conference to date
- Largest lesbian/gay religious gathering ever convened in the Asian/Pacific Rim.



Home at Last! MCC Los Angeles begins worship services at their new Facilities in West Hollywood, CA on November 17, 1996. Photo by Norm Mason.

- One of the most beautiful cities, safest travel destinations, and hospitable countries in the world

For your convenience and to obtain the lowest rates available, the official 1997 General Conference travel companies, Above and Beyond Tours (in conjunction with Destination Down Under), have prepared excellent round-trip travel and lodging packages especially for our travelers for as low as \$1195.00 (U.S.). Book early because flights will fill quickly! Contact: Above and Beyond at 800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666 or Envoy Travel at 312-787-2400. If you plan to use frequent flyer miles or if you're considering extending your travel, they are ready to assist you. Travelers from countries outside the Americas have the option of booking with local agencies carrying the official package. In Europe contact ManAround, phone 181-902-7177; in South Africa contact Rennies Travel, phone 21-21-5013; in New

Zealand or Australia contact Destination DownUnder, phone 02-268-2188 or fax 02-267-9733; or call Above and Beyond for information on your region.

Registration forms have already been sent. If you haven't seen one yet, ask your local MCC leaders or contact UFMCC offices at 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, California 90069-4548, phone: 310-360-8640, fax: 310-360-8680, e-mail: ufmccq@aol.com. Also check out conference information and registration forms on the UFMCC website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Early registration deadline is March 1, 1997.

Make your plans now to attend this great global gathering. We will see you in Australia!

P.S. Apply for your passport and visa now!

CORRECTION :

Tithes reported in the November issue of *Keeping in Touch* were for September, 1996.

KEEPING IN TOUCH DECEMBER 1996/JANUARY 1997

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC E-mail: ufmccq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 10th of previous month.

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:

Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez,
Rev. Dana Cagle, Rev Steve Pieters

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15.00 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 10th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

seeks a full-time pastor for our 170 member chartered church in a growing Christian community. Please send letter of interest or request for application packet to Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103. Deadline for receiving completed applications is February 28, 1997.

Attention Gay Servicemembers!

Know your legal rights: say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service-member Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling 202-328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

EXCEL International is seeking an Executive Director. What we offer: The position is part time, low pay, a lot of work, many rewards. The position will be filled 10/97. Minimum requirement: must have graduated from an Excel weekend. Send letters of interest to Michael Albertini, Clerk, Excel International Executive Committee, c/o 1476 Amon Drive, Richland, WA 99352.

Woman interested in sharing hotel expenses in Sydney, during General Conference. Seeks others. Women preferred. Contact Andrea at 941-418-1953.

Pastoral Search-MCC of the Quad Cities

seeks visionary Pastor for Mountains and Plains charter church. Location: Iowa-Illinois border cities of 400,000. Congregation owns church and parsonage on major thoroughfare. Unique growth opportunity exists. Interested MCC-ordained ministers with proven leadership skills and excellent communication skills are encouraged to send resume before February 28, 1997 to: Pastoral Search Committee, 1312 W. 41st Street, Davenport IA 52806.



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CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

October 1996

1. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX 4,245.93
2. MCC Washington, DC 2,498.02
3. King of Peace MCC, St Petersburg, FL 1,947.45
4. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL 1,608.15
5. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 1,481.27
6. MCC New York, New York, NY 1,458.98
7. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO 1,341.88
8. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 1,261.94
9. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL 1,238.28
10. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 1,150.62
11. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX 1,037.83
12. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO 1,001.43
13. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 985.23
14. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA 981.56
15. St. Johns MCC, Raleigh, NC 925.70
16. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM 884.11
17. Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX 876.76
18. River City MCC, Sacramento, CA 865.74
19. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS 839.20
20. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 800.57

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

October 1996

1. Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah, GA 36.39
2. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM 34.54
3. MCC Eugene, Eugene, OR 33.75
4. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS 32.85
5. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA 32.66
6. MCC of Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA 32.53
7. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 31.68
8. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO 31.31
9. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY 30.65
10. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN 30.48
11. MCC Paducah, Paducah, KY 28.93
12. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch., CA 25.93
13. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL 25.85
14. MCC Dayton Parish, Dayton, OH 25.42
15. Eternal Light MCC, Lacey, WA 24.79
16. MCC Glendale, Glendale, CA 24.40
17. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park, IL 24.32
18. MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA 24.05
19. MCC Bridgerland, Logan, UT 23.73
20. Christ Alive MCC Vancouver, Vancouver, BC 23.19

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)



November 1996

A Visitation From Generation "X"

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The following is excerpted from an article written for the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review, concerning the struggle to deal with religion in the gay and lesbian community, and the spiritual and religious concerns of lesbian and gay youth.

I was invited to speak at a local high school, at their equivalent of

COVER STORY REV ELDER NANCY WILSON

"Project 10", a school-sponsored support program for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning kids one of the teachers had called, frantically looking for help: she needed someone to offer a divergent view. It seems the week before, the group stumbled upon a discussion of religion, and one of the kids had said that homosexuality was a sin. All the other kids agreed. They had never heard of any other viewpoint.

The kids in the class were lively teenagers, and in dress and mannerism were nearly indistinguishable from the other kids in school. I brought t-shirts with our church's "No More Homophobic Religion" logo on them, along with pamphlets about homosexuality and the Bible, and about MCC. They scarfed them up like a mid-

morning snack.

The teacher introduced me. I asked how many of them had ever seen a woman in a clergy collar. No one responded. Not only that, but I said "I'm a lesbian." Eyes grew. Then I told them that I pastored a church founded by a man who tried to kill himself after he came out and was kicked out of his church.

They were with me. Then I said, "How many of you have heard that homosexuality is a sin?" Every hand shot up. "Well," I said, "It's a lie." And then a very strange thing happened: they didn't want to talk about it anymore! This frustrated the teacher and mystified me. Slowly I realized that they were not engaging the discussion because they had more important, burning, and in their own minds, religious questions to ask. And these questions weren't what the teacher or I had expected.

First question: "What do you talk about at church?" This was asked by a very effusive young girl who made me feel like I was her Career Day speaker. She wanted to know all about what I did in my job. But mostly, what we talked about in church. Was it boring? Was it just about gay

stuff? Did we talk about "real life"?

Second Question: "Are you the same at home as you are at church?" This was asked by a child who was very interested in the fact that I wasn't celibate. The integrity question. Am I just another religious hypocrite, a phony, a lesbian Elmer Gantry (they would never know who he was, so I might say Jim Bakker or Jimmy Swaggert). Do I walk what I talk? Am I who I am no matter where I am, or is this just a 9 to 5 job. A performance, an act? Can they trust me? Young seminarians learn that they have to pass two tests in any congregation: the test of professional authenticity (Are you competent?), and the test of personal authenticity (Are you for real?). These kids had brought up both questions in rapid succession.

Third Question: "Do you have field trips?" This one threw me at first and took me a while to translate. I was, in fact speechless! Fumbling, "We-had-a-beach-party-and-baptism-service-does-that-count?" I blurted out. It evidently did because it got responses of "cool," etc. But the question really being asked was "Do you have enough fun?"

continued on page 2

EUROPEAN CHURCHES FOCUS ON GROWTH

On September 6-8th, eight MCC Congregations in England participated in a weekend church growth retreat conducted by Rev. Elder Don Eastman as part of the Strategic Growth Initiative. This follows a previous Church Development workshop conducted last May by SGI Team member Rev. Arlene Ackerman.



A Work In Progress

Visitors to the new international offices of the UFMCC will usually see a work in progress as development of this extraordinary facility continues over the next few years.

Construction to reconfigure the buildings of the UFMCC and the historic "mother church," MCC Los Angeles, is occurring in several phases as sufficient funds are raised.

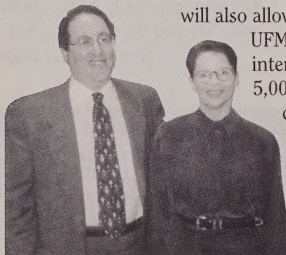
"Angels In Charge" was the theme on October 18, 1996 as we celebrated the occupancy of UFMCC's new Center for Service and Support on the second floor of the five-story building. The building will eventually be totally occupied by MCC's global headquarters. Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator of the UFMCC, cited Psalm 91 as he unveiled a key design motif of the new facilities: "This Fellowship was born in The City of Angels, and from the beginning, God's angels have had charge over us". Because of a very generous major contribution by Ms. Linda Davidge of Austin, Texas, a beautiful reception center is the first area visitors will step into as they enter the second-floor offices. Highlighting this area is a custom-built reception counter designed to be fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a US federal law. Rev. Perry and Ms. Davidge were joined by West Hollywood Mayor Paul Koretz, members of the Founders Five Hundred, the General Council, and UFMCC Staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Rite of Blessing for the reception area.

Already, an improved working environment and increased productivity of UFMCC staff has resulted in more effective service to local MCC congregations and leaders. In recent months, for instance, distribution has doubled for the UFMCC's popular news and resource publication, *Keeping In Touch*. This month, one member of a local MCC wrote, "One day I found a copy of *Keeping In Touch* on the church bulletin board. I read it from cover to cover. Now it is my favorite periodical to read each month. My perception of Metropolitan Community Church was greatly enhanced once I started reading KIT. United, we can have a much greater impact on the world."

Key to this new working environment is a focus on technology. The entire international headquarters team is now linked by computer network, the beginning of a *UFMCC Global Intranet* which will be developed as a part of the Technology Center when funds are available. The Technology Center

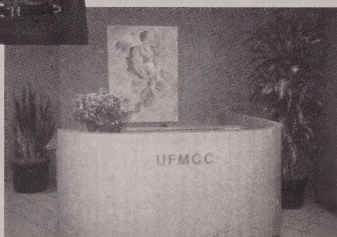
will also allow for expansion of the UFMCC's Web Site on the global internet. In September, more than 5,000 people from 43 countries contacted the UFMCC Web Site, at (<http://www.ufmcc.com>) and

continued on page 7



Above West Hollywood Mayor Paul Koretz and Ms. Linda Davidge at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Right UFMCC Reception Desk at the Global Headquarters.



Are we willing to leave our comfortable ghettos, go learning and exploring? Do we dance and party and laugh?

Fourth Question, the collective question that had nothing to do with gay and lesbian issues:

"What happens to us when we die?" It was the big question of the morning, and hung heavily in the air. The questioner wanted to know what I personally believed, and I told her. This brought about lively discussion. And all the while, the teacher squirmed, still wanting to talk about Leviticus and Romans, not realizing that we were way past that. Soaring, in fact.

Fifth Question: "*How much does it cost to get married?*" Bingo. First of all, they assumed that I would and could marry them, no matter what their sexual orientation. When I began to clarify the legal issue to them, I found that they were well aware of the Hawaii case, and about the legal status of gay and lesbian marriage. But again, they were way down the road. Convinced that the world would catch up eventually, they wanted to investigate the practical issues. Would I marry them, in our church, and how long did they have to save up money for the event? They were dating, falling in love, exploring sexual intimacy, and fantasizing about their wedding day. And they just wanted to know if they would be able to afford my services. Would I be there for them?

These questions were a visitation from Generation X for me. All I had learned in church growth workshops never had an impact on me like this. I got it in a new way. I got that their questions needed to guide our agenda at MCC into the new millennium, our agenda for a new Reformation. And I'm still interpreting them. How open are we to the real questions lesbian, gay, bi and questioning youth and kids are asking? How important it will be, 5, 10, 15 years from now to produce resources and leaders who will be enjoying the questions people are actually asking!

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson is Senior Pastor of MCCLA.

Should I Go To General Conference 1997?

Yes, Yes, Yes!!! As someone who has just returned from experiencing a small portion of the hospitality MCC's in Australia have to offer, I say "pack up your old kit bag". What wonders you will be treated to! Cockatoos skimming about overhead, Sydney Harbour stretching out before you and just beyond... the ocean. Sydney is a beautiful city, built on hills. The gay "ghetto", is just minutes from the conference site, and it offers great food, shopping and sights. The conference sight itself is spectacular, right down on the harbour and completely accessible. Transportation is easy; there's even a monorail.

I met with the on site coordinator, Rev. Robert Clark, and was truly amazed at how much Sydney has to offer. There are lots of shops on site and there's an aquarium and a ferry. I was checking out possibilities for children and it looks as though there will be lots of opportunities for outings close at hand. There are wildlife sanctuaries close to Sydney where you can experience the Koalas and Kangaroos up close (I held a Koala...it was dream-like).

After looking at the travel agent's packages prepared for General Conference I realized what a deal they were. For less than it cost me to fly to Australia, you can fly and have a hotel room for a week. It actually looks as though the cost will not be all that much different from what I paid to go to Phoenix. So...if you have put Australia out of your mind and stopped considering it as an option - RECONSIDER. It is the opportunity of a lifetime. Don't pass it by! The conference travel agents have some extended packages available as well at substantially reduced costs.

I am sure that the conference itself will be awesome as well! Conferences have always renewed and inspired me. So having it in Australia is just a bonus! I look forward to seeing you in Australia. Until then, TaTa!

Aotearoa, New Zealand "Land of the Long White Cloud"

The beautiful country of New Zealand was first inhabited by the Maori people, who traveled from Hawaii, over one hundred years ago. The Maori language is spoken throughout the country by the Maori people, and more and more by the many others who have come to partake in this incredible land. Many of the names of cities, towns, roads, foods, are of the Maori language. When the first people came upon New Zealand they named it "Aotearoa" or, "Land of the Long White Cloud." When the Maori people greet one another they say... "Kia Ora," welcome.

The UFMCC has been in New Zealand for 21 years. We have 3 churches in this country. MCC Auckland, a chartered church sits in the heart of the city and has just recently developed a statement of purpose which will help them reach into the young adult and women's communities more intentionally. Their pastor, The Rev. Michael Horn, also the Area Coordinator for New Zealand is currently involved in planting churches in more new cities in their country.

Rev. Iris Saggars and Rev. Leigh Neighbours have just recently formed a team ministry in Hamilton, a small city an hour south of Auckland. They meet on the beautiful campus of Waikato University in the Interfaith Campus Chapel. Rev. Saggars

and her partner, Olive play a vital role in the woman's community and Rev. Neighbours and his partner, Dennis live another hour south of Hamilton in the small village of Mangakino, population 1,500 people. Aside from the pastoral work which Leigh has just begun with Iris in Waikato, Leigh is also a working chaplain in a special ministry in Mangakino. He works in "The Lodge", a home for those with minor health challenges and "The Rest Home". His ministry as an MCC pastor reaches far and wide.

Christchurch, is the home of another vibrant and growing MCC. Our beloved Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein has been their



recent Pastor. They meet in a beautiful old Anglican church where MCC is not only housed but embraced by the host congregation. The Church has selected a team of two, Andrew Donaldson and Gordon Push, to serve in an interim pastoral role.

The Area Conference for New Zealand was held in Christchurch, October 1996. The first day was



■ Above Standing outside the church after the ordination service; (from left to right top row): Rev. Andrew Donaldson, Richard Tankersley, Rev. Michael Horn, Rev. Carol Graham (host church pastor), Rev. Judy Dahl, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and in the front, the two ordinands, Rev. Leigh Neighbour and Rev. Iris Saggars.

■ Left (left to right) Rev. Michael Horn, Area Coordinator, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, and Rev. Judy Dahl beside the tree All Saints MCC planted in the yard of the host church, Holy Trinity Anglican on the one year anniversary of meeting in their shared facility.

designed to give the clergy an opportunity to meet with each other to share pastoral and personal challenges and triumphs.

Twenty-two people participated in the conference on day two. Rev. Elder Hein led the participants through small and larger group exercises which allowed us to experience both the personal and congregational

needs in our churches. The afternoon session was conducted by Mr. Dan Knowles, the Director of the Ettie Rout Centre which works with people affected by HIV and AIDS. He described the face of AIDS in New Zealand. There have been 575 cases of AIDS diagnosed since 1982. All but 75 of those people have died. The face of AIDS in New Zealand, like the face of AIDS around the globe is beginning to shift from gay men to other high risk groups, especially heterosexual women and men.

Sunday, October 13, was the closing service for the Conference, culminating with the ordination service. Rev. Iris Saggars and Rev. Leigh Neighbours formally took on the mantle to continue this good work along with so many others in Aotearoa New Zealand...the Land of the Long White Cloud.

MCC Puerto Rico Cristo Sanador is selling Puerto Rican Coffee!

"Comuni-tás; if it's good enough for the Pope, it's good enough for us"
Did you Know Puerto Rico supplies all vatican coffee?

Great for Christmas & Thanksgiving Gifts!

Packaged beautifully in an aluminum bag with an air filter to keep moisture constant.

This effort is a way to be interdependent with local churches in the Global Outreach Ministries. It is a way of giving and receiving.

For More Information Contact: Pablo Navarro Hernandez (787) 721-6358

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Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please send _____ bags at \$10 each plus \$2.25 shipping & handling per 5 bags



■ **Exciting News** - A group of 30 people in Fargo, North Dakota are interested in joining UFMCC. Mountains and Plains District Coordinator, Rev. Bob Arthur will be meeting with this group in December to lay the groundwork for their entry.

■ **Congratulations to MCC** of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, and to Rev. Jim Burns as the church elected Rev. Burns to be their new pastor.

■ The parish extension of Open Door MCC in Hagerstown, Maryland, has applied for and received official Mission Status. They have also chosen the name New Light MCC, Robert Griffin has been appointed their Interim Pastoral Leader.

■ MCC Ogden, Utah was officially recognized as a New Work in the NWD, UFMCC on August 24, 1996. Rev. Jim Morgan is the Pastor, Rev. Bruce Barton is on staff. Worship is Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Their address is 255 - 32nd, Ogden, UT 94401.

■ **Congratulations to MCC** Knoxville, Tennessee who will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary in February, 1997.

■ **JESUS MCC**, Indianapolis, Indiana has called Mr. Jeff Miner as their Pastoral Leader. He will begin the first of the year.

■ **Congratulations to Shannon** and Deidra Daniels-Young from MCC NOVA, Falls Church, Virginia, who recently became foster parents to Brandon, age 3 1/2 and Shannon just gave birth to a baby girl, Shelby.

■ **Belated Congratulations to** Victory Arrow MCC, Springfield, Missouri, who celebrated their 19th Anniversary October 3rd.

■ **Mid-Atlantic District** will be holding their Fall District Conference Nov. 1&2 in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for their conference will be "Sexuality - Created in the Image of God." Their special guest speaker is Rev. Mona West, Dean of Samaritan Institute of Religious Studies, and their special guest musician is Jallen Rix.



Resources for Children in Worship

There are some easy ways to make your church welcoming and accessible to children and their parents. There are many reasons your church may have children present during worship— you may believe that worship should be shared by all generations or you may not have enough children to have a separate children's program. An hour or more of worship is a long time for many children to remain quiet and unobtrusive. By making worship more kid-friendly and meaningful, you can meet the needs of families and other church members.

One way to do this is provide special bulletins for children that elaborate on the theme of the worship and give the kids activities to do during the more "adult" portions of the service. They are a way to convey the message in language and imagery that children understand. Having clipboards with crayons, pencils and activity sheets at the door tells families that you want them present and were expecting them. The resources listed below have all been "kid-tested" at MCC San Francisco.

Weekly Children's Bulletins:

"Peace Papers"

Based on: Biblical themes
Perspective: Liberal
Inclusive language: Yes
Multicultural images: Yes
Appropriate Ages: Elementary Age
Children who can read
Other Information: Includes a Family Page with suggestions for family activities and a bibliography of reading for children and adults on the topic
Distribution: Sent quarterly by subscription
Cost: \$21/qtr., \$79/yr. for master which can be reproduced for local use
Available from: The Parenting for Peace and Justice Network, 4144 Lindell Blvd., #408, St. Louis, MO 63108, (314) 533-4445

"Bulletins for Children"

Based on: Lectionary
Perspective: Moderate
Inclusive language: Almost always; except very familiar passages
Multicultural images: Usually
Appropriate Ages: Younger and Older
Elementary Editions
Other Information: 2 color printing
Distribution: Sent quarterly by subscription
Cost: Approximately \$35 per quarter for 15 sheets per age group per week (minimum order)
Available from: Logos Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 240, 6160 Carmen Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

"Children's Bulletins— 52 Weeks of Activities"

Based on: Bible Stories
Perspective: Moderate-Conservative
Inclusive language: No
Multicultural images: No (Illustrations of Bible stories)
Appropriate Ages: Older Elementary
Other Information: Reproducible; can make the exact number needed
Distribution: Book of bulletins that can be reproduce freely for local use
Available from: Abingdon Press, 201 Eight Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203; published in 1992, available through bookstores

You can also create your own bulletins using materials that you can legally photocopy for local use from the following books. None are in inclusive language (you can change the language before copying them), but all contain useful materials. Most are from a conservative perspective. All of these are available through Christian bookstores.

101 Bible Activity Sheets, Betty deVries, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1983. Word games for older elementary and junior high age.

Bible Verse Coloring Pages, Chizuko Yasuda, Gospel Light Publishing, Ventura, CA 93006, 1994. Includes younger and older elementary sections. Multicultural image of kids.

Easy-to-Use Bible Activity Sheets, Nellie deVries Betty deVries, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1989. Word games for older elementary and junior high age.

Fruit of the Spirit Series: A Christian Activity Book with Reproducible Pages, Carole MacKenthun, R.S.M. and Paulinus Dwyer, O.P., Shining Star Publications, P.O. Box 299, Carthage, IL, 62321-0299, 1986. Books in the series are: Love, Joy, Faith, Goodness, Patience and Peace.

Life and Lessons of Jesus Series: Creative Bible Learning Activities for Children Ages 6-12, Tracy Leffinwell Harrast, David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1991. Books in this series are: Jesus is Born, Jesus Grows Up, Jesus Prepares to Serve, Jesus Works Miracles, Jesus Heals, Jesus Teaches Me to Pray, Jesus Shows God's Love, Names of Jesus, Following Jesus, Learning to Love Like Jesus, Jesus' Last Week and Jesus is Alive!

Reproducible Bible Story Coloring Book: Old and New Testament, The Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati Ohio, 1994. Six stories each from the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Can be used by non-readers.

You-Can-Do Bible Activity Sheets, Mary Currier, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49516, 1990. Holiday oriented, biblically based word games and activities for older elementary and junior high kids.

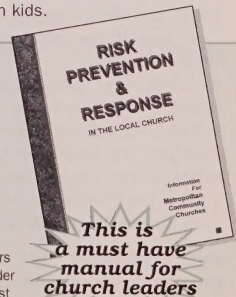
"Risk Prevention and Response in the Local Churches"

Compiled by Rev. Elder Donald Eastman

CONTENTS
INCLUDE

- (1) Responsibilities of Church Leaders
- (2) Risks of legal exposure: An Overview
- (3) Youth and Childrens activities

Catalog Number BP9615, \$15.00 each; plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. For out of country orders shipping will be charged actual costs. CA residents please include 8.25% sales tax. Please call in your order at (310) 360-8640 Ext. 226 , or Fax (310) 360-8680, or mail to 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069.



...continued from page 2

the number increases every month.

Local churches will also benefit from the new visibility of the UFMCC's global headquarters and it's "mother church." Every local church leader knows that improved visibility leads to increased awareness of MCC by more people. And such awareness, when combined with excellence in ministry and service, always leads to growth. Already, this new visibility has been noted in two influential publications. A five-page, in-depth interview with Rev. Troy D. Perry is featured in the September issue of *Christian Century*, the publication most read by North American religious leaders and workers. Also in September, one of the most important newspapers in the US, *The Washington Post*, devoted two full pages in a cover story feature on the MCC movement.

The accomplishments of acquiring this magnificent new home are nothing short of miraculous. Yet, the greatest challenges, many of them appearing as impossibilities, lie ahead. First, there is the urgent need to raise funds for preliminary occupancy for both UFMCC and MCC LA. There is an immediate need for \$100,000 to complete this process. Secondly, there is the awesome task of raising funds to substantially reduce the mortgage debt so the rental income from commercial tenants will no longer be needed. Until this happens there can be no further development of the facilities. Finally, there is the ultimate challenge of raising approximately \$1,800,000 to complete renovation of the entire facility in order to fulfill the ambitious vision of the UFMCC for the twenty-first century.

Individuals and churches can respond to these needs in several ways. Major gifts are one important key to success. For instance, Ms. Davidge's gift of \$30,000 made the reception center possible. A gift of \$15,000 by the Cathedral of Hope MCC

has funded a conference room, and a pledge of \$25,000 from Mr. Jack Campbell, a Florida businessman, will provide an AIDS Ministry Office. Many more donors, whether individuals churches or other organizations, are needed for gifts and naming opportunities such as these. A complete list of such naming opportunities is available from Capital Campaign Coordinator, Rev. David Farrell.

Another way in which individuals and churches can help is through the Capital Campaign pledge drive. Rev. Perry plans to visit 86 local MCC congregations in one year, presenting a powerful vision for MCC's future and an opportunity to participate in this effort. Those who contribute \$1,000 or more are included with the Founders Five Hundred. Every gift or pledge, whether large or small, counts. The faith to make a pledge and the faithfulness to pay the pledge are vital to the fulfillment of this dream.

Rev. Perry concluded the celebration, "We are partners with God's angels. We have to do everything within our strength to reach this goal, knowing we are not alone. With God nothing is impossible, and God did not bring us this far to leave us."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

...continued from page 5

On Wednesday I received a call from Rev. Elder Troy Perry and he stated he supported us, and would get the news out on UFMCC Homepage. He concluded by praying a prayer of anointing for myself and the congregation, as

only Troy can do. We were interviewed live by two radio stations, one in Great Falls and one in Missoula Wednesday afternoon. At worship Wednesday evening we sang and anointed our Holy Place and I instructed the congregation with the values we have set in times of tribulations. In short, I reminded them that the road to a calvary was no picnic. Do not throw the stones back. That we are called to love those that are hard to love.

Then the Human Rights groups, both local and state wide called with the idea of a rally to say. Not in Our Town! This was the message that Great Falls gave when a predominantly black church was painted last November 1995. I stood at the rally wondering if any of those folks would stand for us as a target group. The answers was yes and even more would come and stand for us.

This story went out on the AP and by Thursday I was contacted by the Jerry Springer show and asked if I would do a show on this topic. National TV. I was called by our MCC in Milwaukee, WI, and a live interview aired on the PBS station there. Little did I know that this had already reached USA Today and that little Great Falls was the first hate crime following Pres. Clinton's signing of DOMA. To think the thing I worried about the most was the frightening effect this could have on those looking to come to MCC. God heard me, and the war with Satan had just begun.

KEEPING IN TOUCH NOVEMBER 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC Email: ufmccq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:

Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez,
Rev. Dana Cagle

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15.00 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

MCC Richmond, Virginia - 18 year old growing congregation of more than 200 members seeks Senior Pastor who can foster continued spiritual growth through small group lay ministry and provide leadership within the G/L/B/T and religious communities. Gender balanced, inclusive congregation with own building offers strong ministry in the areas of music, HIV/AIDS, social justice, and small groups. Contact Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 6, Gum Spring, Virginia 23065.

Attention Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service-member Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling 202-328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

MCC Charlottesville seeks pastor with commitment to inclusiveness, community involvement and church growth. Part-time position. Letters of interest: P.O. Box 3275, Charlottesville, VA 22903. E-mail: dminneman@aol.com.

Do we have the Church for you. If you are interested in pastoring our exciting growing congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Please send inquiries to: Pastoral Search Committee, Family of Faith MCC, P.O. Box 382, Jenks, OK 74037. Phone 918-622-1441.



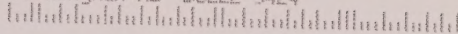
**Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches**

8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Telephone: 310-360-8640, Fax: 310-360-8680



FIRST CLASS PRESORT

Ms. Shirley Lambert
708 46th St
Birmingham AL 35222-3424



CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

September 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX \$9,059.24
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX 3,875.48
3. MCC Washington, DC 3,116.94
4. King of Peace MCC, St Petersburg 2,532.95
5. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL 1,578.46
6. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX 1,576.88
7. MCC Los Angeles, West Hollywood, CA 1,568.09
8. MCC New York, New York, NY 1,529.23
9. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO 1,486.80
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 1,345.58
11. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO 1,301.99
12. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 1,210.20
13. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA 1,109.13
14. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 1,014.60
15. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM 1,012.82
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS 962.31
17. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX 953.53
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 783.29
19. Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD 813.36
20. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL 800.12

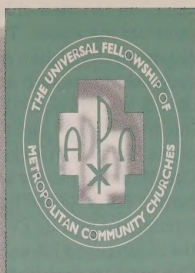
(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

August 1996

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA 48.18
2. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN 35.52
3. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 34.07
4. MCC Albuquerque, NM 30.51
5. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL 30.26
6. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS 29.32
7. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA 26.02
8. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO 25.85
9. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY 25.63
10. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA 25.52
11. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA 25.04
12. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 24.16
13. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX 23.29
14. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA 22.34
15. MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, VA 22.30
16. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC 21.74
17. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT 21.72
18. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO 21.67
19. Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA 21.46
20. Eternal Life MCC, Lacey, WA 21.40

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

October 1996

General Conference in Sydney Less than a Year Away

General Conference in Australia is less than a year away! Final preparations are underway for the most exciting General Conference in UFMCC history.

Located in one of the most beautiful cities, one of the safest travel destinations, and one of the most hospitable countries in the world, UFMCC General

COVER STORY NATHAN MECKLEY

Conference 1997 will be held July 20 through 25 in Sydney, Australia. At least 100 Australian MCC'ers are projected to attend and promotions will encourage individuals from Asia and the South Pacific to attend, making it the most international General Conference to date. Alan Boesak, noted South African anti-apartheid activist and theologian, will be a featured speaker among other special guests. Our General Conference will be the largest lesbian/gay religious gathering ever convened in that region of the world. It's a conference you won't want to miss and there are things you can do now to prepare for the General Conference in July:

Save for your conference expenses. Depending upon the travel and lodging options you choose, if you register early or late, and other variables like food and souvenirs, it may cost many North Americans from \$1500 to \$1700 (U.S.). If you or your church haven't started saving yet, start now!

Apply for your passport and visa. All visitors will need a valid passport and a visa (with the exception of New

Zealanders) for entry into Australia. You should check your local listing of national governmental agencies for the appropriate office to obtain a passport. Contact your nearest Australian Consulate or Australian Embassy for a visitor visa, issued free of charge by mail or in person. Also, Above and Beyond Tours can provide visa processing for a fee.

Begin making your travel arrangements. Above and Beyond Tours is the official 1997 General Conference travel company and they have prepared an excellent round-trip travel and lodging package beginning for as low as \$1195 (U.S.). If you're considering extending your stay in Australia or the South Pacific, or if you're planning to use frequent flyer miles, their travel specialists are prepared to assist you. Even if you're considering using another travel agency, give them a call for comparison — it will be hard to beat! Call Above and Beyond at 800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666. For your convenience if you're traveling from the United Kingdom or

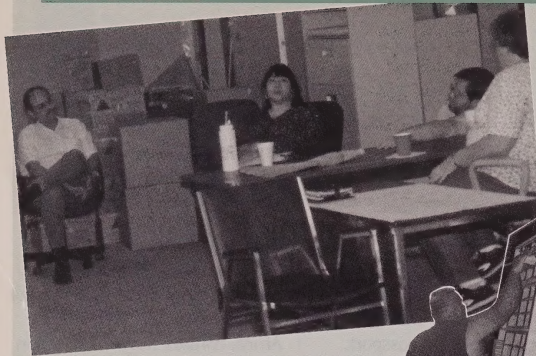
continental Europe, contact ManAround in Middlesex, England, phone 181-902-7177 or fax 181-903-7357. From South Africa, contact Rennie's Travel in Capetown, phone 21-21-5013 or fax 21-25-2810.

Check your insurance. In the unlikely event of illness or accident while you're traveling, you should have adequate medical and other insurance. Australia has reciprocal national health insurance with the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy, Malta and Sweden. For others, contact your insurance carriers to see if you're covered. If not, traveler's insurance is highly recommended and can be purchased through Above and Beyond or other travel agencies. Also, trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

See September Keeping in Touch for details on travel packages.

■ Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson (far left) and Rev. Dianne Fisher (far right) meeting with members of Womens Secretariat in Sydney, Australia.





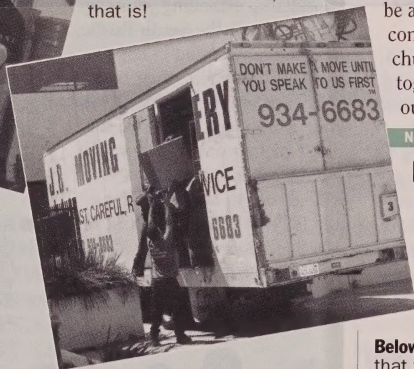
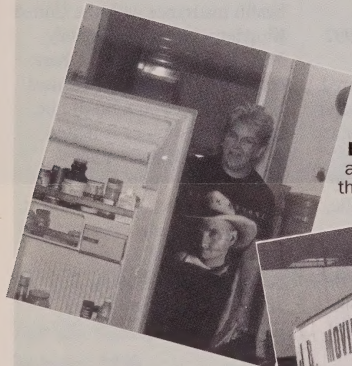
Above Hurry up and wait - isn't that the way it always goes? Mr. Ravi Verma, Ms. Elsa Martinez, Mr. Dave Martin and Ms. Nancy Fackrell wait for the movers to arrive at the new offices.

Right Oh my aching back - all these forms can be heavy. Mr. Roi Hudson-Anaya packs up the Resource Center.



Left UFMCC Controller Ms. Margaret Mahlman inspects the lunchroom.

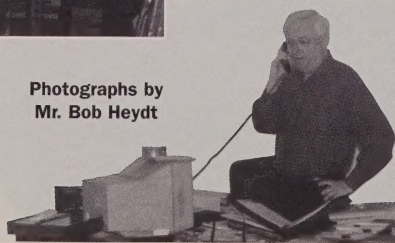
Below The truck finally arrives - one of three, that is!



Left Finally a chance to get out of the closet forever! Ms. Nancy Fackrell packs the office supplies.

Below "I'm trying to start packing - how many boxes do you think I'll need?" Rev. Elder Don Eastman takes a call during packing.

Photographs by
Mr. Bob Heydt



Home At Last - Praise God We Made It!

With the saints in heaven watching, and with prayers, donations and good wishes from so many friends - the Global Headquarters of the Universal Fellowship of MCC moved into its new home on September 1.

The Fellowship Offices had been in the last location for 18 years. It took the entire fellowship staff, 3 moving trucks, and 12 crew to move the offices to West Hollywood. As part of the renovation of the offices the computer network has been extended to the entire staff.

It is an exhilarating experience to be in attractive surroundings and in a neighborhood that is welcoming us with open arms. The neighbors, local businesses, and government officials are thrilled to have the headquarters of the "largest gay and lesbian organization in the world" in their city. Our commitment is that our new surroundings will be a symbol of our renewed commitment to serve our local churches, so that we can together fulfill God's calling to our community.

NEWS MARRIAGE

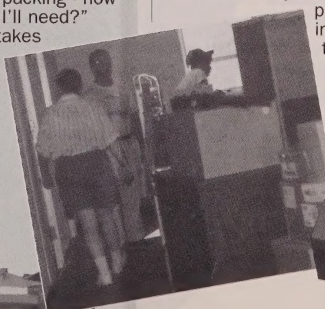
Mississippi Governor Bans Same Sex Marriage

In August, Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice

Below Left Will all of this fit on that truck? Rev. Dana Cagle and Rev. Steve Pieters supervise the move from the old offices.

Below Right Well folks, come on and follow the leader! Rev. Elder Troy Perry

pitches in during the move.



signed an executive order banning same-sex marriages. The Mississippi legislature had declined to pass such a measure during its 1996 session. The interim Pastoral Leader of MCC of the Rainbow in Jackson, MS, Carl Matthews Naylor and his partner Larry Naylor, have been interviewed by four TV stations in the Jackson and Biloxi areas. Carl and Larry have been in relationship for 28 years. As a result of the TV interviews, they were also interviewed by the New York Times. So far, Carl reports, there were 110 phone calls the night of the airing of the interviews. All have been positive! Saying such things as: "You are good role models", "You dispel the stereotypical myth about gay men", and, "Keep up the good work". The overwhelming support has surprised them.

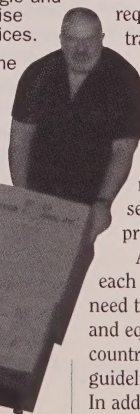
GLOBAL OUTREACH CONFERENCE

Clergy Training Expanding

During the Leadership Conference this past August, our Spanish speaking MCC leaders from around the globe, gathered for a meeting. Present for this meeting were: Pablo Hernandez Navarro, Interim Pastor from Puerto Rico, Ramon Flores from MCC New York, Guillermo Reyna, Lay Delegate from Mexico City, Rev. Jorge Sosa, Area Coordinator for Mexico, Ana Vargas, Co-Pastor of the Spanish-speaking parish at MCC LA and translator and Alejandro Soria, Pastoral Leader of ICM Buenos Aires. The purpose of this meeting was to collaborate efforts to meet the new

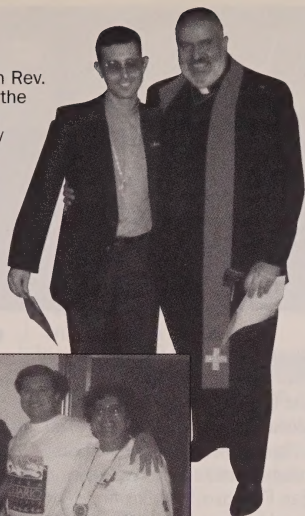
requirements for clergy training and lay leader development. In the process of that meeting Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner and Rev. Judy Dahl met to address needs and to serve as assistants in this process.

As a result of this meeting each person has determined the need to research requirements and equivalencies in their own country in developing UFMCC guidelines for clergy credentials. In addition, the need to begin a



■ **Right** Sr. Alejandro Soria with Rev. Elder Troy Perry standing in the new office building after the blessing of our new property in West Hollywood.

■ **Below** Standing left to right: Pablo Hernandez Navarro, Julio Flores, Guillermo Reyna, Rev. Jorge Sosa, Ana Vargas. Seated left to right: Rev. Judy Dahl, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein.



shared Lay leader program with all our Spanish-speaking countries was highlighted.

Since this meeting, Rev. Elder Perry has named three people to serve as an "umbrella" Board of Ordained Ministry for Global Outreach. Ms. Teri Tompkins, Rev. Jorge Delgado and Rev. Judy Dahl are developing general overall guidelines which will serve as a blueprint for each GO country. Then, in keeping with the need for creativity and flexibility, each country will devise their own set of standards for credentialing clergy and developing lay leaders. A Board of Ordained Ministry will be set up on a case by case basis as needed for interviews and

oversight.

Thanks to our Spanish sojourners, we are able to assure the opportunity and ability to begin training programs for our future global leaders.

AIDS MINISTRY QUILT DISPLAY

UFMCC At the Quilt Display

Many MCC members will be present for the October 11-13 display of the Names Project Quilt in Washington, D.C. UFMCC AIDS Ministry will share an exhibit booth at the Quilt Display with the United Methodist Churches' AIDS Ministry.



MEMORIAL REV. T. EDWARD HELMS

UFMCC is saddened to announce that Rev. T. Edward Helms passed away from a heart attack, September 17, 1996. His funeral was held in Wilmington, North Carolina at the Andrews Valley Chapel, on Saturday, September 21 and Rev. Elder Troy Perry officiated at the funeral. Rev. Helms came into the UFMCC in 1979 after being ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1972. Rev. Helms was licensed in MCC in 1980, and pastored MCC of Tidewater in Norfolk, Virginia from 1979-1981. He founded and pastored MCC of the Disciples in Washington, DC from 1984-1987. From 1987-1992 he pastored First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, Kansas, and from 1992-1995 he pastored Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota, Florida. Please pray for his daughter, two sons, and his brothers and sisters.

Rev. Steve Pieters, Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, will be active in a number of related activities that weekend. He will read names at the Quilt Display, as well as participate in the Interfaith Healing Service at the National Cathedral on Sunday evening, October 13. Rev. Candace Shultis, pastor of MCC Washington, DC, is a member of the planning committee for this service, as well as a participant.

Pieters will also be teaching at the National Skills Building Conference at the Washington Hilton, and will respond to a paper presented at the National Episcopal AIDS Conference at the National Cathedral. The Episcopal Conference will be held Thursday, October 10. The National Skills Building Conference takes place October 10-13.

Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator Rev. Arlene Ackerman reports that many MCC members from around her district will be traveling to Washington for the Quilt Display and other events that weekend.

The National Skills Building Conference, co-sponsored by the U.S. AIDS National Interfaith Network, the U.S. National Minority AIDS Council, and the U.S. National Association of People with AIDS, is the premier educational conference for workers in the field of HIV/AIDS. UFMCC has been an active participant in the Conference since its inception.

DISTRICTS FLORIDA

Church Vandalized

Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, Florida was vandalized, Monday September 16, 1996. The administrative workers at the church found the offices open and desks, computers and file cabinets overturned. The Sarasota police are treating the incident as a burglary and attempted arson. Only \$60.00 were stolen and a small fire was attempted in the file cabinets. Rev. Gus Kein said, "I believe that it is a hate crime, office equipment was not stolen, and robbery was not the primary motive."

A FELLOWSHIP OF ACTIVITY

■ Congratulations to the following churches who celebrated their Anniversaries in September: MCC Louisville, Kentucky, 24th Anniversary • Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, Iowa, 22nd Anniversary • MCC Iliamo, Quincy, Illinois, 21st Anniversary • MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, 23rd Anniversary • First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, Kansas, 22nd Anniversary

■ The combined choirs of the Chicagoland MCC's sang for the televised portion of the Human Rights Campaign conference at which Rev. Elder Troy Perry received the Humanitarian Award.

■ MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, California will celebrate their 14th Anniversary on Oct. 12 and 13 with a Spaghetti Feed, Gospel Concert featuring Marsha Stevens and a glory filled worship service.

■ Congratulations to MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, and Rev. Jim Burns he was elected their new Senior Pastor.

■ Congratulations to Ted Conway who was elected to the Board of Positive Voices, a LesBiGay support and action group in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

■ Rev. Andy Sidden, pastor of Spirit of Life MCC in Holiday, Florida, has been appointed to the Pasco County Domestic Violence Task Force. The group was established by the Pasco Sheriff's office, through a state grant. Rev. Sidden is chairperson of a cultural diversity/religion sub-committee. The task force will promote awareness of domestic violence and recommend methods for preventing it.

■ Rev. Dusty Pruitt has been selected to be the new interim Pastor for Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, Arizona during their pastoral search.

■ Congratulations to Excel of the Lakes who received the "Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant" award at the last Great Lakes District Conference.

■ Rev. Dr. Mona West, the Dean of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies has announced, in a letter to Rev. Pederson, that Rev. Dana Cagle has been chosen to serve as the Samaritan Education Facilitator for the Southwest District.

Rev. White Leads Activists Arrested at White House

Nine individuals were arrested outside the White House, September 13, 1996. They were calling on President Bill Clinton to veto DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act. They are in order of arrest: 1) Rev. Ken South, Washington, DC, Executive Director of the AIDS National Interfaith Network; 2) Will Brennan, Washington, DC, Executive Director of the National Association of Black and White Men Together; 3) Jim Bennett, Washington, DC, partner of Lambda Rising Bookstores; 4) Rev. Harry Stock, Washington, DC, Pastor of Church of the Disciples MCC; 5) Deacon Maccubbin, Washington, DC, partner of Lambda Rising Bookstores; 6) Steve Michael, Washington, DC, is HIV+, is a founding member of ACT UP in Washington; 7) Rev. Mel White, Laguna Beach, CA, Justice Minister of the UFMCC; 8) Wayne Turner, Washington, DC, founding member of ACT UP in

Washington; 9) Gary Nixon, Laguna Beach, CA, executive assistant to the Justice Minister of UFMCC.

Maccubbin and Bennett, Michael and Turner, and White and Nixon are life partners. All nine were arrested, fined and released by the US Park Police.

ACTIVIST ISSUE STEVE PIETERS

MCC-SF Responds to Medical Need for Marijuana

Many people today face the difficult challenges of HIV/AIDS, cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and glaucoma. There are those who believe that one of the safest therapeutic drugs available to people living with conditions such as these is marijuana. Many have illegally enjoyed the relief of nausea and pain associated with cancer, AIDS, and arthritis which marijuana provides. Many people living with AIDS have successfully fought "wasting syndrome" using marijuana to stimulate their appetites. Marijuana has been known to ease the spasms of multiple sclerosis. Marijuana has



been widely used for a number of medical purposes for years, but in the United States, this compassionate use remains illegal.

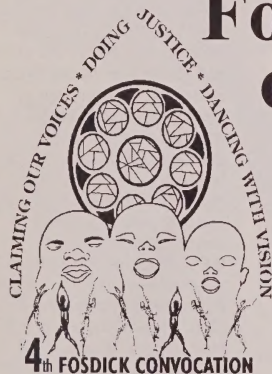
In response to these medical needs, venues were created in San Francisco and Los Angeles to provide marijuana to those who could prove a medical need. Recently, both of these "Cannabis Clubs" were shut down by state authorities in what appears to be a politically motivated election year action.

Marijuana for medical use has now become a primary issue for AIDS activists in California. A measure on the November ballot would legalize medical use of marijuana in California. A poll

■ The congregation and Rev. Michael Piazza at the unveiling the model of the New Cathedral of Hope MCC building. They plan to break ground in the year 2000.

in the Los Angeles Times shows a clear majority of voters favoring the passage of this measure. UFMCC AIDS Ministry sent out a letter to all California MCC's, urging support of this initiative.

When San Francisco's "Cannabis Club" was shut down, MCC San Francisco made international news in August when Pastor Jim Mitulski handed out 1/8-ounce bags of marijuana to those who could prove a medical need, at a special event in the church. On September 13,



Fourth Fosdick Convocation on Preaching and Worship

at The Riverside Church April 1-4, 1997

"Claiming Our Voices, Doing Justice, Dancing with Vision."

Questions to be explored by the Convocation include:

- * How do you find your own voice in preaching and worship?
- * Who are the silenced voices in the church and Christian communities today?
- * What does justice mean in the contemporary world?
- * What visions will move us into a new millennium?

Preaching
Noonday Speakers
Workshops
Daily Bible Study

Barbara Lundblad, Jeremiah Wright, Chung Hyun-Kyung, and James A. Forbes
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Mornings and afternoons, led by innovative ministers, layleaders, scholars and artists
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For more information, contact:

The Riverside Church, Fosdick Convocation, Room 243, 490 Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10027
Tel 212/870-6803 Fax 212/870-6805 e-mail J. Butler.parti@ecunet.org <http://www.uts.columbia.edu/~fosdick>
Registration fee is \$100. Lodging and meals are the participant's responsibility.

The Riverside Church in the City of New York

MCC San Francisco once again hosted the distribution of marijuana.

Since MCC-SF's efforts were successful, with no trouble from authorities, Delores Street Baptist Church and two other non-MCC churches pledged to follow MCC's lead in providing sanctuary and a space for distribution for those who could show a medical need for marijuana.

Rev. Jim Mitulski reports that at the second distribution, there were "No legal problems. It was very quiet and boring. There has been enormous support for this from the community, unlike anything else I've seen in the ten years I've been here."

Mayor Willie Brown made a public statement, calling the distribution "a very good program." He has followed the program closely, appointing his aide, Dean Goodwin, as his liaison to this project.

There was no police presence at the distribution. Formal assurances from the police department and the District Attorney's office stated that they were actively in support of the program. Police commissioner Pat Norman has convened a task force that is managing this project through the Healing Alternatives Foundation (the distributor of record).

The "Cannabis Club" in Los Angeles was shut down in September, and in response the Crescent Heights United Methodist Church has taken on the task of distributing marijuana for medical use in that city.

Please remember Rev. Mitulski and MCC San Francisco in your prayers as they continue their program of compassion for those with a medical need for marijuana. For more information contact Rev. Jim Mitulski at MCC San Francisco, 415-863-4434.

Rev. Steve Pieters is Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry.

SUGGESTED VIEWING PBS

With God on Our Side

"With God on Our Side: The Rise of the Religious Right in America," a six-hour documentary series that chronicles one of the most important political and cultural phenomena in

contemporary America from post World War II to the present, will be presented on PBS stations beginning September 27, 1996. An in-depth and non-ideological look at the controversial movement, this series traces its roots from the anxious "Christian anti-Communism" of the 1950's to the sophisticated politics of the Christian Coalition today. Several MCC'ers including Rev. Mel White and Rev. Steve Pieters are featured in the series.

DISTRICTS PRAYING TOGETHER

National Day of Prayer

On September 22 churches held services of prayer and fasting, to pray that President Clinton will act to veto the Defense of Marriage Act and to issue an Executive Order modeled on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The membership of all Metropolitan Community Churches was asked to write and phone the White House to ask President Clinton to move on these two issues. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson said, "Gay and lesbian people and others who have experienced oppression have a great deal to teach us about family values, loyalty, commitment and love. Our country needs to value every family."

DISTRICTS ON THE AIR

Weekly Cable Show in Albuquerque

Rev. Dr. Fred C. Williams, Senior Pastor at MCC Albuquerque, is appearing weekly on Albuquerque's Community Cable Channel 27. The videotaped sermons of Pastor Fred are included with selected parts of Troy Perry's videotape, "God, Gays and the Gospel." Other portions of MCCA's worship services and activities are also featured in each week's program.

MEETING

The General Council will be meeting on October 18-21, in West Hollywood, California, the council will be working on goal setting for the denomination. Ms. JoNee Shelton has been invited to the General Council meeting as Chair of Commission on the Laity. She will attend with voice and no vote.



DOING JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

Stand Up For Your Rights

Gary and I just returned from our 14 day Fast for Justice in Washington, DC. Perhaps you saw the picture in USA Today or your local papers describing "...gay Christians praying on the Senate steps for the defeat of the Defense of Marriage Act."

After the Senate joined the House in passing this tragic bill (85-14) denying lesbian and gay couples all the rights that go automatically with heterosexual marriage, we moved our prayer vigil to the White House. On Friday, September 13, after celebrating communion in Lafayette Park, we tried to deliver a letter to the President urging him to veto DOMA. Nine of us knelt in prayer on the White House sidewalk to demonstrate our genuine concern and were arrested by Capitol police.

By the time you read this editorial, the American President will have decided to sign, to veto, or to ignore the bill. If he signed it, for the first time in history, the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. Government will have used their combined powers to designate all lesbian and gay Americans as second-class-citizens, denying us a long list of rights we need to sustain, support, and protect our relationships.

Those 175-250 rights denied us include: burial determination for our spouse; child custody; divorce protections; exemption from property tax on partner's death; immigration rights for foreign spouse; insurance breaks; joint adoption and foster care; joint parenting (insurance coverage, school records); medical decisions on behalf of partner; various property rights; reduced rate memberships; social security survivor benefits; tax breaks; visitation of partner's children; visitation of partner in hospital and prison; etc, etc, etc.

Gary and I want to thank our three pastors in the nation's Capitol: the Rev. Candace Shultis, the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, the Rev. Harry Stock (and all the members of their three congregations, especially Will Dennis-Brennan, the Executive Director of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, the Rev. Ken South, Executive Director of the AIDS National Interfaith Network, Michael Nichols, and Albert Hutchings, our co-Chairs for providing their generous, loving, and prayerful support during our 2 week fast.

More than 25 years ago, our founder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry, showed us that obeying Christ's call to do justice sometimes requires public protest, personal risk, and even civil disobedience. Wherever injustice threatens any of God's children, gay and straight alike, we who love Christ and are called to do His will must take our stand. With all the gains we have made in the U.S. and around the globe, we must be vigilant. Please, encourage each member of your congregation to take a stand during the difficult and dangerous days ahead.

Are you preaching about justice from your pulpit? Are you including specific prayers in your Sunday services for those who are suffering injustice in your town and around the world? Are you including the great justice songs in your Sunday worship? Have you organized to get everyone on your church mailing list registered (and informed) to vote. Have you taken special offerings for victims of injustice whose homes or churches have been burned, whose bodies and spirits have been broken? Have you joined one or all of the local justice organizations in your town, as an individual and as a congregation? Do you promote and attend their meetings?

For the past two weeks, I saw three UFMCC congregations and their pastors mobilize without warning to work for justice on behalf of their sisters and brothers across America. I salute them for their courage and their sacrifice. I can't wait to see what God will do for and through our Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches if we really get serious about doing justice in Christ's name.

Continuing education is a great way to keep yourself excited and on the cutting edge of ministry. Its also a requirement for all UFMCC clergy. If you are looking for some continuing education opportunities for the remainder of 1996, check out these ideas.



► Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies is offering the following classes this fall:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Oct. 23-27 | Sexuality Studies | Cost: \$85 |
| Location: MCC New York | | Instructor: R. Goss |
| Oct. 30-31 | Preaching | Cost: \$85 |
| Location: MCC Tampa | | Instructor: J. Brock |
| Oct. 30-31 | Supervising Clergy Training | Cost: \$100 |
| Location: Lowell, Maryland | | |
| Oct. 31 | Advising Clergy Training | Cost: \$50 |
| Location: Lowell, Maryland | | |
| Oct. 30-Nov. 1 | Understanding the Bible | Cost: \$85 |
| Location: Church/Holy Spirit MCC | | Instructor: B. Arthur |
| Nov. 2-3 | Understanding the Bible | Cost: \$85 |
| Location: Des Moines, Iowa | | Instructor: B. Arthur |
| Nov. 9 | Preaching | Cost: \$85 |
| Location: Joy MCC, Orlando, FL | | Instructor: J. Brock |

For more information, contact Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies, P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067, (972) 221-7749.

► For those on the internet, check out classes being offered online. There are a variety of classes on the net on every thing from theology to computers. One resource is the CCF School, located at CCFSchool@aol.com. They are offering a class this fall on The Lord's Prayer; cost is \$145.

► Check out your local community college or seminary for a class. Many seminaries offer one-day seminars that you can attend. Some colleges that are on a quarterly schedule may still have classes that you can sign up for. If you can't find a theologically oriented class, consider a class on small-business marketing, publicity, computer use, or teaching techniques that you can adapt and put to use in your church.

► Attend a workshop offered by consultants. Call and see if any workshops are being offered in your area. A couple of options offered nationally in the United States are:

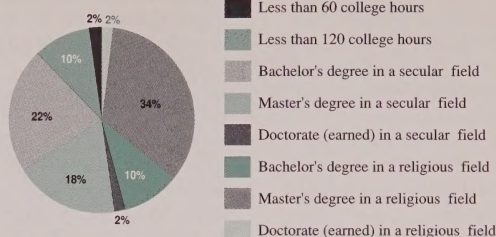
SkillPath Seminars, 6900 Squibb Rd, Suite 300, Mission, Kansas 66201-2768. Call 1-800-873-7545 for dates & locations
20/20 Vision—training programs relating to cell groups
Call 1-800-420-2048 for dates and locations

► Check with local social service agencies in your area for seminars on HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, lesbian and gay adolescents or other issues.

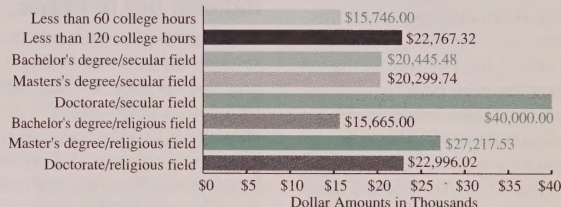
► Call your local Council of Churches or ministerial association to see if any local churches or dioceses are offering workshops or classes that you could attend.

► Be sure to keep a record of your continuing education to send to your District Board of Ordained Ministry with your Status Form to show them what you've accomplished. If you know of a great resource for continuing education that you'd like others to know about, please send the information to Director of Clergy Development, Rev. Maggie Tanis, at the UFMCC headquarters.

HIGHEST ACADEMIC LEVEL COMPLETED



HIGHEST LEVEL EDUCATION ACHIEVED*



*Note: When two equivalent degrees were listed (i.e. bachelor's in a secular and in a religious field) religious degree was considered as the highest achieved level.

This information on the education of UFMCC clergy comes from the 1996 Clergy Support Questionnaire, filled out by more than half of our clergy, representing nine countries and equal numbers of women and men. These charts indicate the highest level of education our clergy have achieved. We also compare the level of compensation to the level of education for clergy in the United States.

HIV/AIDS MINISTRY

Aids Awareness Month

October is AIDS Awareness Month around the world. In addition to the Quilt Display in Washington, D.C., events are scheduled throughout the UFMCC during this month.

It has been observed that in many areas, HIV/AIDS issues have been put on the back burner. This is partly due to the fact that HIV/AIDS is no longer a "new" issue. Another reason could be the hopeful news on successful treatments which came out of the Vancouver AIDS Conference, resulting in a new complacency.

There are a number of reports that HIV testing is down, while a number of gay men have abandoned safer sex practices. Further complicating the issue is the "re-stigmatization" of those who have recently sero-converted, preventing many from getting tested, or coming out to their friends, families, and communities

about their HIV status.

During this AIDS Awareness Month, MCC's around the world are urged to continue (or to start) prevention campaigns, and to encourage those at risk to get tested. It is important to know one's HIV status, because there are decided benefits to early treatment. In addition, MCC's are encouraged to do everything possible to ensure a safe space for people to be open about living with HIV and AIDS.

JUSTICE MINISTRY

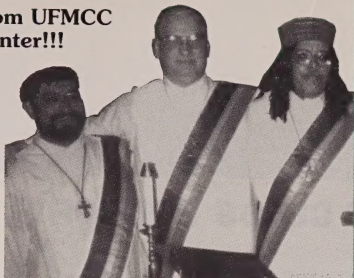
Welcome Back Rev. Mel White

Rev. Troy Perry and the UFMCC Elders have asked Rev. Mel White to continue serving as Justice Minister a position that Mel has filled since January, 1995. It is his honor to accept. Mel and Gary Nixon have moved back to their home town, Laguna Beach. Mel White's new phone number: (310) 360-8640 ext 250; fax number: (714) 494-4079; and e-mail address: RevMel@aol.com

Now available from UFMCC
Resource Center!!!

NEW Economy Deacon Stole

\$60.00 plus
\$5.95 shipping (U.S.)



For out of country orders shipping will be charged actual costs. CA residents please include 8.25% sales tax. Please call in your order at (310) 360-8640 Ext. 226, or Fax (310) 360-8680, or mail to 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

STRATEGIC GROWTH REV. DON EASTMAN

Successful Church Leadership

For the past

sixteen years, one of the most helpful resources for leaders of local MCC congregations has been the annual Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. My first visit to this extraordinary conference in 1981 was unquestionably one of the most important and inspiring continuing education experiences of my entire ministry. Since then, many more MCC pastors and lay leaders have enjoyed Dr. Schuller's superb program.

In early 1997, UFMCC's Strategic Growth Team will offer a unique opportunity concurrent with the Institute for Successful Church Leadership, scheduled for January 27-30 at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. Following the Institute on January 31 SGI team members will facilitate a one-day seminar of MCC participants to discuss the lessons of this program for our ministries. Hosting this one-day seminar will be the nearby Metropolitan Community Church of Long Beach.

Another opportunity following these events will be meetings of senior pastors of mid-sized and large Metropolitan Community Churches. Both groups will be meeting on February 1-4. These meetings offer an excellent opportunity to network, share



resources and provide mutual support. For purposes of these meetings, mid-size churches are defined as those with 100 to 250 in average weekly worship attendance; large churches are those with an attendance of more than 250. Pastors of churches with an average weekly attendance of 175 to 250 should feel free to choose whichever group best serves their needs.

Individuals wishing to register for the Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership should do so directly by contacting the Crystal Cathedral at (714) 544-5679 or (714) 971-4277. Registration cost for this four-day event is \$65.00 (US). Individuals wishing to register for the one-day SGI, on January 31, or those seeking more information, should contact UFMCC Conference Coordinator Nathan Meckley at 310 360-8640 in West Hollywood. There is no registration charge for the one day seminar.

Strategic Growth Team members include Rev. Arlene Ackerman, Rev. Brent Hawkes, Rev. Michael Piazza, Rev. Sandra Robinson, Rev. Nori Rost, Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Mr. Ravi Verma, and Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Chair.

DISTRICTS CLERGY

Looking for a Church or Pastor?

There are new, current and accurate lists of vacant pulpits and available clergy. If you would like a copy of either list or to be added to the lists, please contact Rev. Maggie Tanis, Director of Clergy Development at global headquarters

KEEP IN PRAYER

Rev. Mary Hinsey and MCC With a Vision, Longview, Texas, as they move through transition as Rev. Hinsey resigned her pastorate effective August 1.

Rev. Kermie Wohlenhaus and MCC of the Living Spring, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, as Rev. Wohlenhaus resigned her pastorate on August 18.

Prayers go out to **Rev.**

Denise Leopold, pastor of MCC of the Open Arms, Manhattan, Kansas, whose mother died on July 25.

Prayers are requested for **Rev. Charlie Lott**, on staff at Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, Missouri, who lost her son to a gunshot in August.

Alejandro Soria, our Pastoral Leader in Buenos Aires, prayers for peace, courage and strength.

ICM Cristo Sanador, our newest Global Outreach church in Puerto Rico as they recover from the hurricane which swept through their country.

Rev. Sue Wellman of Deo Gloria Family Church in South Africa and her partner Dianne Bennett were in a serious automobile accident earlier this year. Since that time their lives have been "turned upside-down" and Dianne has just had surgery related to her injuries.

Prayer goes out to **Rev. Lee Carlton**, for his health.

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Northwest District seeks person with successful pastoral and administrative skills for District Coordinator following General Conference 1997 for a four year term. The current District Coordinator is expected to apply. Contact NWD UFMCC DC Search Committee through Bob Buhlis, Chair, 228 Commercial St., Nevada City, CA 95959-2507 (VM 916-478-8943, FAX 916-265-3299). Deadline for application packet request is 11/15/96.

Ministry and Nightlife: Part-time Pastor to assist MCC of the Sierras in ministering to "The Biggest Little City in the World". Confidential inquires: P.O.Box 21192, Reno, NV 89515-1192.

Attention Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service-member Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling 202-328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686, (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

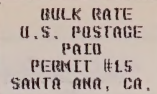
We feel great eating Earth's First Food - Organic Business, healthy income. For free audio cassette call Judith at 800/927-2527 ext. 2532 or Ron at 800/922-6662.

KEEPING IN TOUCH OCTOBER 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC Email: ufmccq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:
Nancy Packrell, Elsa Martinez,
Dana Cagle

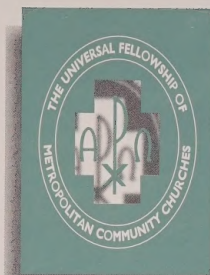


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(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)



September 1996

Gospel for a Global Generation: A New Era Begins!

KEEPING IN

TOUCH

As of Sept. 1, the international headquarters of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches will occupy its new home at 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood, California. Throughout the month of August, construction has been underway for the renovation of a new Center for Service and Support

COVER STORY REV. ELDER DON EASTMAN

which will house the Resource Center, UFMCC AIDS Ministry, Office of Global Outreach, Director of Clergy Development, and UFMCC Administrative and Executive Offices. Upon moving into this attractive new facility, the entire UFMCC staff will be networked by computer, the first step toward development of a global intranet linking MCC church leaders everywhere.

Future development of the new complex of facilities, to be accomplished as sufficient funds are raised, includes the Global Technology Center, where local church leaders can learn cutting-edge technology and will create the UFMCC Intranet allowing instant access to information and connection between MCC church leaders around the world. The Intranet will make a vast range of information and resources available on the computer of each local church leader.

Also featured in the Global Technology Center will be a state-of-the-art Video Teleconference Room to enable real-time multimedia meetings of the Board of Elders, General Council and other groups. A Center for UFMCC Archives will include all archival materials in

one computer database instantly accessible to local church leaders and archival researchers.

LEADERSHIP INTO A NEW MILLENNIUM

The importance of an emerging global generation was highlighted at the recent UFMCC Church Leadership Conference in Burbank, California. 216 church leaders from seven countries gathered to focus on the vision and values that would guide a new era of MCC ministry. A major emphasis on information

technologies included the first Technology Center at a UFMCC Conference. More than any previous conference, this event was filled with hands-on skills building and resourcing opportunities. Video tapes of many of the events are now available for local church leaders who could not attend.

Gender and generational communication strategies were the focus of several key speakers, including religion sociologist Tex Sample and corporate executive Marsha Raulston. Episcopal priest Eric Law conducted an intensive institute on inclusion and empowerment of multicultural leadership in churches, and another institute on ministry to and with young adults featured a

■ **The first full** house at Metropolitan Community Church Los Angeles gathered for a rite of blessing and thanksgiving.





dramatic dialogue between a young adult and an older person discussing what they needed from each other. Once again, retired United Methodist Bishop Leontine Kelly electrified MCC leaders with prophetic urgency, as she challenged us to be agents of the gospel mandate for global justice. She reminded the UFMCC that "we are called to transform, not conform" and to become instruments of justice, not only ministers of charity. "Charity relieves, justice addresses the cause," urged Bishop Kelly.

BLESSING OF THE NEW BEGINNING...

In celebration of this new era of outreach, advocacy and inclusion, participants of the UFMCC

Leadership Conference joined members of MCC Los Angeles and others on Sunday, August 4, for a Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing at the new facilities on 8704-8714 Santa Monica Boulevard. In a very moving ceremony, the service began as members of MCC Los Angeles constructed an altar. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson cited God's

promise to barren women and eunuchs in the words of Isaiah, "I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off." From the Book of Common Prayer purchased the week before MCC's first worship service in 1968, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry read his favorite psalm, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord." Rev. Perry recounted the saints of MCC who were spiritually with us to celebrate God's blessing of this moment. The moment represented one more milestone in an incredible journey of 28 years, and a wonderful point of departure toward new horizons of global ministry.

On the Road with the Capital Campaign

Rev. Elder Perry continues in Phase Two of his fellowship-wide "Tour of the Churches". The tour had already visited 68 Churches in 25 States in the U.S. and Canada. The campaign visited MCCs in Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia in July and August, and will return to California during September. A tour of MCCs in Great Britain is in the works for October. Also being scheduled are visits to additional MCCs in Florida, Indiana, Utah, Eastern Canada, and the Northeastern USA. If you would like to have Rev. Perry make his presentation in your church, please contact Rev. David Farrell at (619) 297-0875 about a visit to your MCC.

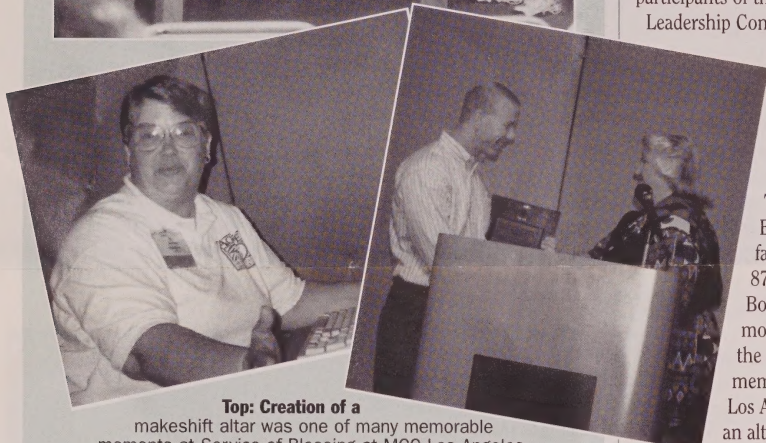
LEADERSHIP SHERMAN HICKS

Impressions of Leadership Conference

It was a privilege and an honor for me to be invited to the Leadership Conference. The UFMCC is to be commended for choosing such a timely theme: "The Gospel For A Global Generation." The selection of this theme shows the UFMCC's seriousness in reaching out around the globe to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all God's children.

The presentations, workshops and worship experiences provided participants exciting visions, numerous skills and inspiration for doing ministry in a changing world. Personally, I was thankful for being invited. I gained from the presenters and I was blessed by being in community with sensitive and caring brothers and sisters in Christ. Nathan Meckley and all those involved in the planning and execution of this conference are to be congratulated for a well planned and smooth operating conference.

If the church is going to reach people in the 21st century, we need to be sensitive to their needs and speak directly to address those needs. The message of the gospel is the same but the way we present



Top: Creation of a

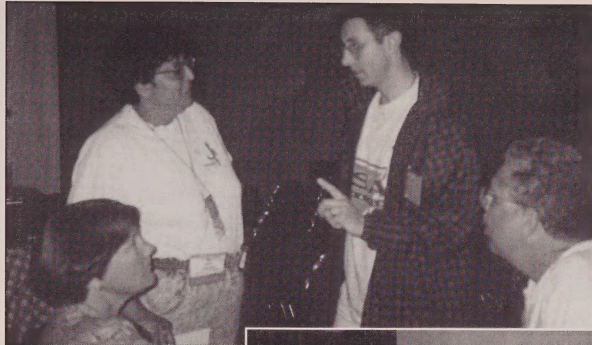
makeshift altar was one of many memorable moments at Service of Blessing at MCC Los Angeles.

Left: Ms. Jonee Shelton was one of several presenters at the first UFMCC Conference Technology Center.

Right: Ms. Judy Dale, Great Lakes District Coordinator, presenting award to representative of Gay Employees Association of Disney Corp.

Bottom: Rev. Elder Hong Tan, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Mr. David Mixner during meeting with Board of Elders.





■ **Top:** (lft to rt) Judy Dahl, Ana Vargas, Alejandro Soria, Rev. Pablo Navarro
 ■ **Right:** Susan & Linda Bekker from Republic of South Africa

the message needs to change. Tex Sample presented this in an excellent way. The fact that UFMCC chose Tex Sample to address issues shows how serious MCC is in taking the message to reach global generations. The main challenge is for the church to be relevant for people - they aren't willing to accept things just because the church says it, or because it was the way it has always been done. The challenge is to be true to the message. - John 3:16 - in Christ we find salvation. It is relevant that this same message once used against black people, now is used to deny gays/lesbians their humanity. - *Rev. Sherman Hicks is the Senior Pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, DC. He held the position of Bishop of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 1988-1995.*

HRC VOTER REGISTRATION

Human Rights Campaign Enlists Help of MCC

The Human Rights Campaign has sent a mailing to all U.S. Metropolitan Community Churches, to invite participation in the Voter Registration Project. The joint partnership of UFMCC and HRC hopes to register thousands of voters during the month of September. Please contact HRC Field Department at 202-628-4160.



GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL

Leaders from Global Outreach Areas Inspire Conference

There is something very compelling about a person who brings light and warmth to a large group of people! Make that six people and the effect is six times more powerful!

Those of us who attended the Leadership Conference in Burbank shared in the blessing with the presence of our Global Outreach Area Leaders. Linda and Susan Bekker traveled from Pretoria, South Africa to attend their very first MCC conference. They brought opportunity to connect with South African MCC'ers in a very tangible way. Both these women have an open and loving spirit which captured the hearts of all those they met. They brought the vision and promise of building MCC in South Africa and were able to experience first hand the blessing and connection of our UFMCC community spirit.

Rev. Jorge Sosa and Guillermo Reyna from Mexico City, Pablo Navarro Hernandez from Puerto Rico and Alejandro Soria from Buenos Aires created an atmosphere

of joy and excitement. Working with them, praying with them, eating with them, and being in their presence offered many of us the chance to catch the fever of hope and renewal present in the Spanish-speaking delegation. A Spanish-speaking track of workshops was developed for this conference to enable us to learn with and from each other as we minister in another language, the same great truth of God's love.

The Mexico City church has been publishing a periodical entitled "Reencuentro" since December of 1995. This journal of local church news and theological discussion is widely acclaimed as an excellent publication by all of our Spanish-speaking people. It is the goal of this group to make this journal an official UFMCC publication with widespread publication to all

Latin American and Spanish-speaking countries. Preliminary work is underway to make this a reality. Plans are underway to distribute "Reencuentro" to Spanish-speaking seminaries and libraries in order to utilize this literary excellence as a tool for general information sharing and evangelism. If you are interested in helping to make this dream a reality, please be in touch with Rev. Jorge Sosa directly at the Mexico City church or contact: Rev. Judy Dahl at global headquarters.

FRONTRUNNERS NANCY WILSON

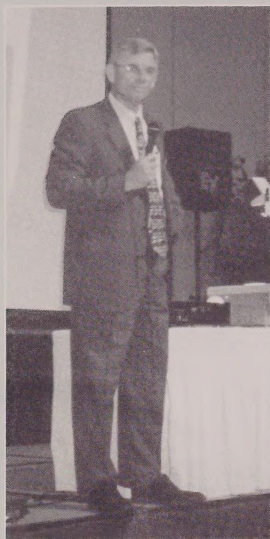
The Frontrunners of UFMCC

Every year the Board of Elders designates a special "cause" for Fellowship Sunday offerings taken in the month of October for UFMCC's Anniversary. This year, Rev. Troy Perry has requested that our local churches take a love offering for the General Fund of UFMCC, earmarked for expenses related to moving into our new headquarters.

Our operating budget for 1996/97 never anticipated the amazing success we have had in raising over \$1 million to purchase our new

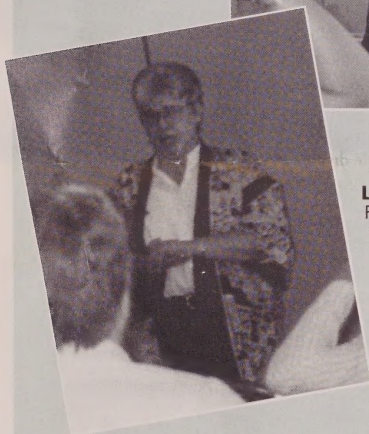
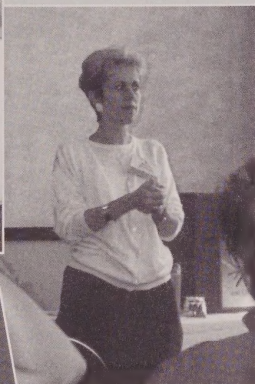
A FELLOWSHIP OF ACTIVITY

• Congratulations to **Rev. Neil Thomas** on an interview with BBC Radio Solent about his work with **MCC Bournemouth, England**. • Praise God, **St. Mary's MCC of Greensboro**, North Carolina had an attendance jump in June of 44% over last year. • **Rev. Kenneth G. Hull, Sr.** was elected President of the Brown County Clergy Association. This interdenominational association includes clergy from most of the churches and all the denominations in Green Bay. Rev. Ken is pastor of Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay, Wisconsin. • **Rev. Tony Freeman** was elected Senior Pastor of **MCC San Diego**, California on July 7, 1996, with the congregation giving a resounding 96% vote. • **Rev. Dusty Pruitt** celebrated her 20th Anniversary of ministry with UFMCC in August. • Congratulations to **MCC of the Spirit** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as they just purchased and moved into their new building on Jefferson Street in Harrisburg. • Congratulations to **Divine Redeemer MCC**, Glendale and **MCC For All the Saints**, Silverlake, California as both congregations elected **Rev. Dana Cagle** as their Senior Pastor and as they move closer to an actual merger. • **Rev. Joseph Gilbert** has been the pastor of MCC For All the Saints for the past few years, and is retiring as an MCC pastor this fall. The church said a final farewell to Rev. Gilbert during worship on August 25. • Congratulations to **First MCC of Atlanta**, Georgia for winning first place for non-profit groups again this year with their float for pride week. • Congratulations to **First MCC of Atlanta**, Georgia who will celebrate the Silver Anniversary of their founding on January 16, 1997. **Rev. Troy Perry** will be their special guest speaker. • The Unitarian Universalist Association voted 97% to endorse same-sex marriage at their recent General Assembly. • Praises for a very successful Leadership Conference! • Praises for a new MCC in Puerto Rico!



Left: Dr. Tex Sample, Key Note Plenary Speaker, titled "The Future is Here and I Can't See It from There".

Below: Ms. Marsha Raulston discussed "A Woman's Place" at plenary session.



Left: Ms. Wendy Foxworth lead a workshop on "Developing Consciousness in Your Church".

Below: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson leading workshop on "Issues for Multicultural Congregations".



headquarters! And, of course, it did not anticipate unbudgeted moving costs, the needs for new equipment, and having to do this without interrupting services to local MCC's.

We need to insure that as we move, we do not face any anxieties about cash flow at headquarters. In our joy and enthusiasm for purchasing these gorgeous new buildings, we can never forget that their purpose is to house a staff that can provide high quality resources, materials and support services for our churches and ministries around the globe.

In order to get a head start on Fellowship Sunday this year, we asked some individuals, UFMCC organizations and churches to be "Frontrunners" - to give or pledge in advance of Fellowship Sunday. Thanks to those who have already taken offerings, or are in process of doing so:

- Rev. Bev Stephenson, MCC Lafayette, LA
- Keith Apple and the Excel Network
- JoNee Shelton and COL Steering Committee
- Rev. Gina Chapman, Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA
- Rev. Nancy Wilson, MCC Los Angeles, CA
- Rev. Darlene Garner, MCC NOVA, Falls Church, VA
- Rev. Frankye White, MCC Jacksonville, FL

- Rev. Ron Anderson, Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA
- Rev. Brad Wishon, MCC St. Louis, MO
- Rev. Steve Torrence, MCC Key West, FL
- Rev. Candace Shultis, MCC Washington, DC
- Rev. Pat Bumgardner, MCC New York, NY

How can you help? Please participate this year, if you never have before, in the celebration of UFMCC's 28th Anniversary. We are sending a letter to all our churches requesting a pledge. Pray for us as we "pack our bags" and move to 8704/8714 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.



■ Above: Mr. Ramon Florez leading one of a series of Spanish language workshops.

■ Below: The Hot Cross Nuns at Saturday Evening Cabaret Night.





■ Board of Ordained Ministry Steering Committee.

LEADERSHIP REV. MAGGIE TANIS

Board of Ordained Ministry Meets

For two days prior to Leadership Conference, the chairs of the district Boards of Ordained Ministry (BOM) gathered for training and meetings with Director of Clergy Development, Rev. Maggie Tanis, and with the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee Transition Team. All twelve districts were represented, allowing the group to hear a multi-national perspective on the credentialing process. The content of the meetings highlighted the BOM's commitment to providing the UFMCC with well-prepared clergy, ready and able to serve our churches. The meetings also gave BOMs the opportunity to share ideas and resources across District lines.

During the business meeting, the BOM Steering Committee



established a universal License to Practice, a process to transfer licenses when relocating to a new district, procedures for conducting future business, and created a Judicial Subcommittee. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in July 1997, just prior to General Conference, in Sydney, Australia.

GLOBAL OUTREACH PUERTO RICO

Bienvenidos ICM in Puerto Rico!

During the August Board of Elders meeting, Pablo Navarro Hernandez brought a proposal to the Board of Global Outreach, Board of Elders through the Administrator of Global Outreach. This proposal was an application to affiliate with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Global Outreach is proud to announce a new work: Iglesia Comunitaria Metropolitana Cristo Sanador! Rev. Judy Dahl has been in ongoing dialogue with the Interim Pastoral Leader, Pablo Navarro Hernandez since the early part of this year.

Pablo is a Professor of Organizational Psychology at the University of San Juan and comes from a legacy of five generations of pastors and theologians. He is eager for the opportunity to serve and build a community of faith in Puerto Rico. Pablo is particularly interested in developing a theology of community and seeks to pastor ICM Cristo Sanador with a strong emphasis on the need for the new members of MCC in Puerto Rico to build, develop and share in a community of Christian love and witness. Several of our churches, who "got wind" of the development of an MCC in Puerto Rico have already expressed interest in becoming "Partners" with this new church. I have responded to you and hope this information will further inform you of our newest Global Outreach church. If you are interested in being more closely linked to ICM Puerto Rico, please be in touch with Rev. Judy Dahl at global headquarters.



DOING JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

"Because They Give Me Pleasure..."

I've just returned from the Republican convention in San Diego. The false and inflammatory rhetoric still echoes in my brain. "How can you be certain that God loves homosexuals?" the extremists asked. I tried to reason with them from the Bible, from science and from history. There is a sufficiency of evidence, but they aren't really interested in hearing it.

Then I went back to my hotel room to lay down beside Gary and asked myself their question: "Why, after 30 years of uncertainty, am I so totally convinced that God created us and loves us exactly as we are?" For a moment, I lay in that dark and silent room, cuddled up against the man I love, trying to recall those memories of my own creation, more than a half-a-century-old, memories that ended my doubts forever.

For nine months I had floated, safely suspended inside my mother's sensuous, silken sack. Then, without warning, the water that had cradled me so gently just drained away and I began the final terrifying plunge from that other world into this. At the end of the long, slippery tunnel there were new voices that I had never heard before. My mother groaning in pain. A nurse whispering "Push harder, Mrs. White." The doctor saying quietly, "Here he comes."

But even with all those distracting new sounds rushing up at me, I could still hear the friendly, familiar voice of the Archangel Gabriel growing ever more distant as I slid precariously toward the light. When he knew my time had come, Gabriel rushed down the golden streets of heaven shouting at the top of his voice.

"Sing, angel choirs! Play, angel bands! Quick, angel color guards, raise another lavender flag over the papapets of heaven. Come quickly, saints and martyrs. Gather around to cheer, and weep, and wonder why every so often God orders another gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender child to be born."

"You ask why another gay child is born today?" God finally asked and billions of saints and angels nodded their heads and looked perplexed. "Because they give me pleasure," God explained quietly. And then, after another long moment of silent contemplation, the Creator smiled and spoke again. "Besides, gay and lesbian babies stir up things and God knows the world needs an occasional stir."

Now, when the extremists ask, "How can you be sure that God loves homosexuals?" I lift my face to heaven one more time and listen to the laughter of my loving God.

Ed. Note: Mel and Gary have sold their home/retreat center in Dallas and are moving to a small apartment in Laguna Beach, California. They will continue their UFMCC Justice Ministry working out of our new offices in West Hollywood.

Upcoming District Conferences:

Great Lakes District Conference, October 4-6, 1996, Clarksville, Indiana
Theme: Justice...Not "Just Us" with special guest Rev. Mel White
Southwest District Conference, November 22-24, 1996, Tempe, Arizona
Theme: "Evangelism in the Millennium"

General Conference Travel Package Announced

The details of the Fellowship's official travel and lodging package for General Conference in Sydney, Australia, July 20-25, 1997, have been announced. The basic package will include:

- Roundtrip air from LA or San Francisco
- 7 nights accommodations
- Roundtrip airport shuttle transfers
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Delegate satchel

All rates are per person and quoted in U.S. dollars. Departure taxes additional. Discounted add-ons are available from cities through the United States. Additional air stops in the South Pacific are \$135 each.

Package Prices:

OXFORD KOALA HOTEL

Double - \$1195 Single - \$1482 Triple - \$1157

Land Only:

Double - \$477 Single - \$694 Triple - \$368

CAMBRIDGE HOTEL

Double - \$1337 Single - \$1712 Triple - \$1262

Land Only:

Double - \$499 Single - \$874 Triple - \$424

SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL

Double - \$1370 Single - \$1778 Triple - \$1324

Land Only:

Double - \$533 Single - \$940 Triple - \$487

HOTEL IBIS

Double - \$1450 Single - \$1940 (no triples available)

Land Only:

Double - \$613 Single - \$1103 (no triples available)

NOVOTEL

Double - \$1618 Single - \$2270 Triple - \$1477

Land Only:

Double - \$780 Single - \$1433 Triple - \$639

For booking, or more information, contact Above and Beyond Tours at 800-397-2681 or 415-284-1666.

PRAYERS

Prayers for the family and friends of **John Raymer Jr.**, spouse of **Rev. Dwayne Johnson**, MCC Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on June 6th due to complications of Aids.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Diana Hill** of MCC Shepherd of the Plains who died of a heart attack on July 19.

Prayers go out to **Rev. Patricia Leffler**, pastor of Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, California, for healing and strength as she goes through radiation treatments to become cancer free.

Prayers for **Rev. Bradley Mickelson** as he mourns the death of his father.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Rev. Tomas Garcia** from ICM Guadalajara, Mexico whos mother died earlier this year.



■ Aids Ministry Meeting:

(left to right) Top - Rev. Lori Dick, Rev. Jo Crisco, Mr. Ravi Verma, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Rev. Ken South, Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Mr. Gil Gerald; Bottom - Rev. Steve Pieters, Mr. Eric Rofes, Ms. Sallie Perryman.

GLOBAL OUTREACH AUSTRALIA

Sydney's Manna Pantry

The Manna Pantry is a project of the Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney which supplies emergency food to people living with HIV/AIDS in Sydney and on the Central Coast. The project started small back in 1993 when MCC's pastoral support team became aware that PLWHA were living in poverty. They also found that PLWHA seeking assistance from nonHIV charities were being discriminated against — and were therefore missing out on the support those agencies could have provided. As a result, MCC started giving out food parcels at their free Sunday lunches, at first in conjunction with BGF and later independently.

"Manna Pantry don't just do food," says Colin Wiseman, the coordinator of the Manna Pantry who can also refer you on to other helpful organizations and places such as the Luncheon Club or Day Centre, and of course to the MCC if you desire food for the soul as well as the body.

—Article from "Talkabout" magazine, Sydney Australia July 1996

AIDS MINISTRY MEETING SUCCESS

Planning Meeting for AIDS Ministry

A Strategic Planning Meeting for UFMCC AIDS Ministry, held July 26-27 in Burbank, CA, was a highly productive session, resulting in numerous proposals for future directions and activities. Look for information regarding this meeting in upcoming issues of Keeping in Touch.

HANDS ON MARSHA RAULSTON

Tools to Create "A Woman's Place"

"Typically there are differences in male and female styles of communicating which give women in positions of authority special challenges. Our culture is gender marked, therefore authority-driven communication may result in women being at odds with expected behaviors which can be misinterpreted," according to Marsha Raulston presenting "A Woman's Place" at the Friday morning plenary at the UFMCC Leadership Conference in Burbank, CA.

Ms. Raulston also led a workshop during the conference, "Be All That You Can Be...or How to Succeed in Only 26 Hours A Day." The following are reference materials that were used in the workshop:

Talking from 9 to 5, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.; published by William, Morrow, & Co., Inc.

You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.;

published by William, Morrow, Balentine

That's Not What I Meant!: How Conversational Style Makes or Breaks Relationships, Author: Dr. Deborah Tannen, Ph.D.; published by William, Morrow, Balentine

Women as Managers...Strategies for Success, Editor: Linda Bullock; published by Economics Press, Inc., Fairfield, NJ 07004-2565; copyright 1996; 800-526-2554 or 201-227-1224

Executive Strategies, Editor: Barbara Baker Clark; published by: National Institute of Business Management, 1101 Kings Street, Suite 411, Alexandria, VA 22314; 800-543-2053; e-mail: execstrat@aol.com

Communication Briefings...a monthly idea source for decision makers, 1101 Kings Street Suite 110, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-548-3800; Fax: 703-684-2136

Raulston heads world wide customer support and service as Vice President of Customer Satisfaction for Global Village Communications, a high-tech manufacturer of telecommunications hardware and software. She was Director of Customer Service for the AAdvantage program and was Corporate Coordinator of Quality of Work Life for American Airlines. She was formerly an officer with INTUIT and the Diners Club division of Citicorp. Raulston is also currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies.



■ **Samaritan Institute Faculty Breakfast:** Rev. Mona West, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and Rev. Sandy Robinson.

VOLUNTEERS QUILT DISPLAY

Volunteers Needed for MCC Booth at Quilt Display

Volunteers are needed for UFMCC AIDS Ministry's exhibit booth at the Names Project's Quilt Display in Washington, DC, October 11, 12, and 13, 1996. If you are planning to be present for the Quilt Display and would like to help out, please contact Rev. Steve Pieters at UFMCC Global Headquarters, at 310-360-8640 before September 24.

HONORS REV. WILHELMINA HEIN

Hein Receives Outstanding Teacher Award

Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein received the first annual Dr. Tom Reveley Outstanding Teacher Award at Samaritan Institute's faculty breakfast on Saturday, August 3, at the Burbank Hilton. The award was established by the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies in memory of Dr. Tom Reveley. Dr. Reveley served on Samaritan Institute's Board for a number of years and his commitment to education for liberation continues with bequest money he left to Samaritan. The award is made annually by the Academic Dean and consists of \$750, a certificate, and a plaque with the names of yearly recipients to be kept in Samaritan's administrative offices.

Rev. Elder Hein has been faculty for Samaritan Institute for several years and has taught in a variety of

Samaritan's programs. She is consistently viewed by her students as a faculty person with expertise and gifts for teaching.

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Translation Services: Correction, spelling and typing of materials from English into Spanish or vice versa. Reasonable prices. Call Ana's Translation Services (805) 488-3147 and leave a message.

Ministry and Nightlife: Part-time Pastor to assist MCC of the Sierras in ministering to "The Biggest Little City in the World". Confidential inquires: P.O. Box 21192, Reno, NV 89515-1192.

Attention Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: say nothing, do nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Servicemember Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling (202) 328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

Amateur Radio Land Line BBS Gateway to MCC of Greenville, SC W4WV's BBS @ 864-299-6185 Voice 864-277-9957 FidoNet CrossNet X-FilesNet SySop and UFOlogist LeRoy Lawhorn.

Victory Arrow MCC, Springfield, Missouri, is seeking that Senior Pastor who is right now being prepared by God to lead us into VICTORY! Send inquiries to: Ms. Barbara Wulfers, 2804 Spring Hill Road, Rogersville, MO 65742.

We feel great eating Earth's First Food - Organic Business, healthy income. For free audio cassette call Judith at 800/927-2527 ext. 2532 or Ron at 800/922-6662.

MCC With A Vision in the heart of East Texas is seeking applicants for part-time Pastor with great potential for full-time. Please submit applications to: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1287, Longview, TX 75606. For more information call 903-753-1501, or e-mail MCCWAV TX@AOL.com.

Are you called to serve in the beautiful Ozark mountains? We are a spiritually diverse congregation seeking an outgoing community-minded pastor. For more information please write MCC of the Living Spring, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 365, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. E-mail: croftwm@AOL.com.

Leadership Conference Video Tapes Available! Contact Valda Lewis (316) 264-4889.

KEEPING IN TOUCH SEPTEMBER 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC Email: ufmccq@aol.com, Web site: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator; Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:

Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez, Dana Cagle

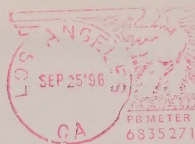


Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

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CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

July 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX 7,686.62
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX 3,338.47
3. MCC Washington, Washington, DC 2,433.93
4. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL 2,063.73
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL 1,551.05
6. MCC New York, New York, NY 1,328.62
7. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 1,316.71
8. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 1,206.01
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 1,182.35
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 1,174.30
11. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO 1,082.71
12. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL 1,025.80
13. MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA 996.63
14. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL 899.00
15. MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY 864.40
16. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 860.68
17. MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO 838.38
18. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 811.93
19. Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD 804.00
20. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX 802.75

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

July 1996

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA 41.05
2. MCC of the Disciples, Washington, DC 40.27
3. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 38.50
4. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 37.16
5. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL 33.74
6. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS 33.37
7. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO 30.53
8. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA 29.95
9. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA 29.40
10. MCC of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 28.82
11. MCC Boulder, Boulder, CO 28.16
12. Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX 27.73
13. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL 27.22
14. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach, CA 26.76
15. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN 26.67
16. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO 24.62
17. MCC in Charlottesville, VA 24.61
18. MCC New York, New York, NY 22.33
19. MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY 22.11
20. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL 21.11

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)



KEEPING IN

TOUCH

August 1996

Meet the Designers of Our New "Work of Art"

Since UFMCC and MCC Los Angeles have achieved ownership of the buildings in West Hollywood one of the most asked questions following this landmark event is how long will it take for renovations and move-in. While these timelines will primarily be driven by availability of funds, and as preparations for the next phase of capital fundraising begin, it is a great time to introduce

COVER STORY NATHAN MECKLEY

two individuals who are central to the building project — architects Sharon Landa and Cary Stevens.

In September of 1995 the Joint Ownership Policies Committee, on behalf of UFMCC and MCC Los Angeles, contracted with the architectural partnership of Landa/Stevens to develop a master plan and design development for the two buildings. Landa/Stevens came highly regarded with glowing recommendations. While not personally involved in an MCC,

they knew of our work and immediately brought great enthusiasm and commitment to the task. With more than 30 years of combined professional experience, Sharon Landa

and Cary Stevens have been architectural partners for seven years. Based in West Hollywood, many of their individual clients are well-known entertainment celebrities:

Richard Dreyfuss, Helen Reddy, Richard Simmons, Jaqueline Bissett, Herb Ross, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, to name a few; and corporate clients Chartoff-Winkler Productions, the Bank of Los Angeles, and Casablanca Records. Their award-winning designs have been featured in more than 50 publications including *Architectural Digest*, *Interior Design Magazine*, *House Beautiful*,

House & Garden, *Designer's West*, *Money Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The New York Times*.

Not only have Landa/Stevens brought great design expertise to the project,

their wisdom and experience of the politics of building in West Hollywood has been crucial in our successful applications for permits for parking and building use.

They have energetically been engaged in each facet of the project and are in every respect professional and a pleasure to work with.

Recently, Cary and Sharon were asked to discuss their design approach and experience of the UFMCC/MCCLA project. "There's no question that we would have preferred to start with an empty lot," Sharon stated. "It's more challenging to do a remodel because you're dealing with rigid realities. This project tests everything we know about

design." As a joint project of a church and denomination which share similar values and history, and continue to have intimate connections, they were faced with the



■ **Architecture as art** is the craft of Landa/Stevens, renowned for numerous Southern California creations.



Tree of Life MCC, Ypsilanti Michigan, raised over \$1,400 for the Aid for AIDS Walkathon. They also had a float in the Michigan Pride Parade. • **Good Shepherd Parish and Church of the Resurrection MCC** joined together on a float for the Chicago Pride Parade. **Rev. Wayne Bradley** once again officiated at a community-wide union service. • **Rev. Lin Stoner** and **Carole Hoke** are involved with a group of 30 other ministers in western Michigan, asking Christians to fully accept gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons into their churches. The group represents 18 churches with over 9000 members (Methodist, UCC, Presbyterian, and MCC). • **Redeemer MCC** raised over \$1,400 at a yard sale and was instrumental in organizing the first-ever Pride Picnic in Flint Michigan. They also have a Blessing of the Animals Service planned for this month. • **Interim Pastoral Leader Cindy Long, MCC of the High Church**, Boone North Carolina, has been invited to prepare a series of radio devotionals which aired on WATA, Boone. • **Christ Covenant MCC**, Atlanta, Georgia, was scheduled to close escrow on its new sanctuary on July 25. • **Rev. Mel White**, Minister of Justice for UFMCC, brought the morning message at **First MCC**, Atlanta, Georgia, on Pride Sunday June 30th at 9 a.m. • **MCC New York** made history in the New York state senate chamber on June 4th. **Rev. Pat Bumgardner** became the first openly gay clergyman to give the opening prayer in the state senate after accepting the invitation from Senator Franz S. Leichter of Manhattan. **Rev. Bumgardner** reportedly raised the bowed heads of many senators when she mentioned the words God, courage, homophobia, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families all in one prayer. • **Rev. Phyllis Motta** has resigned as pastor of **MCC of Paducah**, Kentucky. • **Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein** has announced to **MCC in Christchurch** that she intends to move to the Netherlands. • Prayers are requested for **Rev. Sylvanus Maduka** and all MCC people in Nigeria, for the development of an outreach to **Durban, South Africa**, and for the faith community of **Eduardo Antonetti**, founding member of **MCC Buenos Aires**. • Six people from Global Outreach areas will participate at Leadership Conference including **Linda and Susan Bekker** from South Africa, **Alejandro Soria** from Argentina, **Rev. Jorge Sosa** and **Guillermo Reyna** from Mexico and **Pablo Navarro** from Puerto Rico. This marks the very first time our delegation from Mexico will be funding their own travel to a conference!



■ **Left**—Artist's rendering of the sanctuary of MCC Los Angeles, incorporating a second-story barrel vault. **Below**—The courtyard area will feature a wall of water and the memorial wall.

liantly achieved by opening a central section of the existing first floor ceiling, creating a sanctuary ceiling arching upward into a two-story barrel vault.

"The vault is an ancient form," Cary stated, "and we believe that

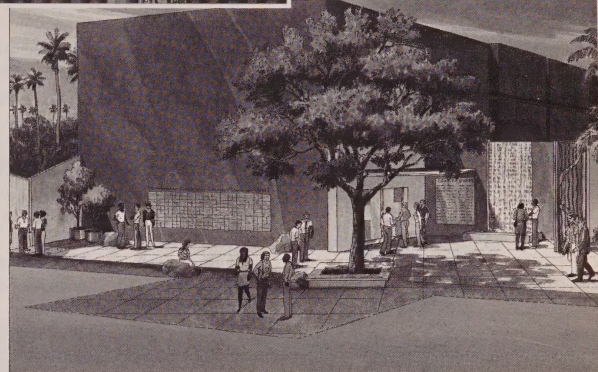
challenge of tying together two buildings that do not match.

"These buildings were not designed to be together. In order to achieve the strong sense of place MCC needs in this prominent location, we hoped to achieve an impact of meaning and cohesion in the way the buildings fit together. They should look like they were born of the same mother." Sharon describes their solution: "The epiphany for us came when we realized we could unite the buildings by cladding the bottom of both with a 14-foot facade creating a flowing wall with bold color."

Several unifying factors are achieved in this approach. By highlighting the shared facade with striking color they were able to "give up" the rest of the buildings. The disparity of building height is diffused through unity of color and materials and a uniform emphasis at the new base. The facade also naturally creates a shared courtyard. Gates designed for this courtyard are becoming increasingly important as both an art piece and a magnificent shared entry to both buildings. As a further step, the building MCC Los Angeles is to occupy would have shown a plain one-story, flat surface facing the street above the new base. Using the square shape of the MCC Chi Ro cross they planted a red block cruciform on the exterior. Both bold and subtle, it adds the texture of another visual plane and helps strengthen and transform a for-



"Being a gay man and woman in practice together, we bring an interesting perspective to this project."



mer retail building, now to be occupied by a church. Sharon Landa reflected by saying, "Design is really about perception — about change in impact. Many people that have never before noticed or have driven past thousands of times will think these are new buildings!"



"This is our community. And we are proud to be speaking for them through the language of design."

low, of unfinished character, with odd-angled walls, and existing structural columns and, through design renovation, we are creating a sanctuary. It has ultimately proved very exciting." Perhaps the most notable problem was that the proposed sanctuary area needed more height, more volume of space, and a sense of lift. This will be bril-

lly this approach is the solution to creating an interior space that will feel spiritual and convey a sense of calm and connection to something bigger and more powerful."

The first floor of the UFMCC building will house an international visitor's center, including a bookstore, and the Edith Allen Perry Memorial Chapel. Currently a parking garage, the future visitor's center will have an airy indoor-outdoor feeling with a wall of windows facing the courtyard. One may view the wall of water, memorial wall and other features of the exterior courtyard while enjoying the contemporary furnishings, international emphasis and interactive technology of the visitors center interior. Entering through the visitor's center, the chapel will feel quite different than the church sanctuary next door. A smaller sacred space dedicated to parents who have unconditionally loved their children, the chapel is described by Sharon as "more introspective. Quiet and understated."

Commenting on their obvious enthusiasm for the project, both Cary and Sharon consider this a wonderful opportunity for several

reasons. Cary shared, "being a gay man and woman in practice together, we bring an interesting and important perspective to this particular building project." Sharon added, "Santa Monica Boulevard is a landmark street and this is a landmark location in the heart of our community. We're creating a sacred place on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood which has no church on this central thoroughfare. This is an opportunity to say, 'Look at me!'"

"This," Sharon says, "is a great opportunity to design a public space where so many people we know will be going ... It's our community. We are proud to be speaking for them through the language of design."

GLOBAL OUTREACH: GERMANY

MCC Service at Nazi Camp Site

Hamburg Pride Week was opened by an MCC service in a former Nazi concentration camp. At the beginning of the Pride Week in Hamburg, MCC Hamburg had its 8th annual worship service in the former concentration camp of Hamburg-Neuengamme. At this concentration camp many gay men were killed during the Nazi period.

Approximately sixty people attended the service which commemorated the gay people who suffered during the Nazi regime.

The worship was followed by the presentation of a plaque describing the plight of gays in Nazi Germany. Several gay groups and a member of the Hamburg parliament participated.

■ **The exciting master plan** for use of the new building includes an international visitors center.

Guests and officials alike were deeply moved. This plaque will help remind people about the inhuman events so that they will never happen again.

DISTRICTS: NORTH CAROLINA

St. Jude's Ministry Front Page News

On the front page of the Lifestyle section of the *Sunday Star-News* in Wilmington, North Carolina, a very positive story appears about St. Jude's MCC's AIDS ministry. Accompanied by four color photos of worship, the church's quilt, and Pastor Kathi Beall, the article praises St. Jude's for providing badly-needed resources for persons living with HIV/AIDS in New Hanover County. St. Jude's AIDS ministry program is called CARE: Coastal AIDS Resource Effort. Through financial assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS, CARE has provided new brake pads for the car of a couple who are expecting a baby shortly, have sent an HIV-positive high school senior to the prom, and have picked up the pieces when other agencies and churches have turned people with HIV away. They provide groceries, transportation, and medicines.

CARE threw a 31st birthday party for a young man who was not supposed to live to 25 because of HIV infection. With 70 members, and an additional 100 people who attend St. Jude's MCC functions, their HIV/AIDS ministry has brought them visibility, positive recognition, and a lot of new members walking through their doors.

Kathi Beall reports to UFMCC that there have been absolutely "no negative reactions" to the very positive article in the Wilmington newspaper.

CARE is less than a year old, and is hosting its first major benefit, "An Evening with William Strickland and Friends," hoping to raise \$20,000 for their continuing work. James B. Hunt, the Governor of North Carolina, and Don Betz, the Mayor of Wilmington, both sent supportive, congratulatory letters to CARE for their efforts in providing services.

St. Jude's saw the void in services for persons with HIV/AIDS in their area, and are busy filling it. Kathi says that the rewards far outweigh the efforts they have put into their AIDS ministry.

DISTRICTS: TEXAS

Dallas Church Makes New York News

Acclaimed architect Philip Johnson was featured recently in a *New York Times* article by Herbert Muschamps, discussing his design for a new sanctuary for the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas. The following is an excerpt from this article:

The architect's 90th birthday finds him at work on one of the most ambitious jobs of his career: the Cathedral of Hope, a 2,000-seat house of worship commissioned by the Dallas branch of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the nation's largest gay and lesbian religious denomination.

But Johnson's design for the Cathedral of Hope, which is likely to take years to build because of its size and the need to raise money for its construction, at least gives his impatience a striking visual form. The building tilts, leans and meanders. It refuses

to stand up straight. The floor plan resembles a pattern quilt makers call the Drunkards's Path. The doors resemble wind-torn flaps in a carnival tent. The white concrete walls list to the left, to the right, until at point over the sanctuary, they soar.

We read meanings into buildings, whether or not architects intend to put them there. That's one of the

MEMORIAM

We Remember . . .

Rev. Herbert Evans died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 1996. Rev. Evans served Metropolitan Community Churches in Long Beach, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. He served the denomination on the UFMCC Judiciary Committee, and represented UFMCC on the U.S. Council of National Religious AIDS Networks and the U.S. AIDS National Interfaith Network. He was always a very active supporter of UFMCC AIDS Ministry.

Rev. Evans received his Bachelor's Degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio, and was originally ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He is survived by his partner Todd Conway, and by twin teenage children. Services for the family were held in Cleveland, Ohio. A memorial service will be held at MCC Washington DC on August 24, and at MCC Long Beach, California at a date to be announced.

Rev. Evans requested that donations in his memory be made to UFMCC AIDS Ministry.

Lyllias (Mother) Hubbs passed away on Saturday, May 11. "Mother" Hubbs was 90 years old, born October 4, 1905 in Namaimo, British Columbia, Canada. She moved to California in 1919 and lived there until her recent death. She was a member of MCC San Francisco, where she served as a deacon. Later she joined MCC Golden Gate and served there as a deacon as well. She is remembered by many for her participation at UFMCC general conferences. She would usually room with Edith Allen Perry, mother of Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

She referred to her son Jack's partner, Rev. Elder Jim Sandmire, as "son-in-law." She is survived by her children, Jack Hubbs, Richard Hubbs, Ellen Pinrod and Elaine Orton, fifteen grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.



privileges that makes architecture a public art. And the formal mutability of Johnson's cathedral takes on a particular meaning from the congregation it will house. As a congregation of lesbians and gay men, the Metropolitan Community Church has a social and psychological as well as a spiritual mission. It ministers not only, or even primarily to the needs of gay people for self acceptance; for the wisdom to perceive that gay men and lesbians are integral to society, not alien from it. —*New York Times*, July 7, 1996

The Cathedral of Hope celebrates its 26th anniversary July 28th with a kickoff for its building fund.

HONORS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Human Rights Campaign Honors Rev. Perry

Rev. Troy Perry has been selected to receive the 1996 Human Rights Campaign Equal Rights Award. He is being honored for his commitment to fairness, dedication to equal treatment of all people, and zealous and remarkably successful efforts to help everyone better understand gays and lesbians.

Rev. Perry stated, "I am deeply honored by the award and look forward to sharing with gay brothers and sisters who will be in attendance to this first-ever gay and lesbian political convention." The award is scheduled to be conferred at the Human Rights Campaign's first lesbian and gay political convention, OUTVOTE '96, at a gala awards dinner in Chicago. The Human Rights Campaign works for lesbian and gay equal rights.

OOOPS! SORRY!

Correction

We inadvertently left Helene Loper off the ordination list published in last month's issue. Helene is from the Gulf Lower Atlantic District.

JUSTICE ECUMENICAL CALL

Congress Lobbied by Church Leaders

Twenty-nine of the United States' top church leaders called on Congress to increase the U.S. commitment to global poverty eradication in part by shifting funds from U.S. military spending.

"The growing separation between those who have plenty and those who have almost nothing is both a sign of moral collapse and a profound threat to the world's peace and security," the church leaders warned. In a letter to Senators, they urged a shift away from defense spending and a reallocation of resources within the U.S. foreign aid program to increase assistance to poor countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The joint statement came as the Senate took up debate on defense spending, with deliberation on foreign aid appropriations expected to follow. The letter was signed by the heads of twenty-nine protestant, Roman Catholic and orthodox churches and religious orders. Rev. Paul Sherry, president of the United Church of Christ, was one of the signers. Rev. Sherry has been a speaker at the UFMCC General Conference in the past.

DISTRICTS SOUTH CENTRAL

South Central District Breaks Ground

Early Friday morning, June 14th, Kay McClellan, administrative assistant to the South Central District, and the South Central District Committee gathered with their architect to celebrate a "red ribbon cutting" and ground breaking which launched their



Raley, a local architect and member of MCC of the Resurrection has been contracted as the builder.

GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL

The Faces of Freedom

Freedom wears a familiar face among humankind. No matter the color or the language, the face of freedom is hard to see, or wear inside a closet!

A Press release swept across the globe from Solidarity 96:

■ **Pitching in to** break ground for the new South Central District building project are, from left, Rev. Ed Paul, Kay McClellan, and Davis Raley.



■ First gay and

lesbian pride march ever held in Manila recently. MCC Manila played an central, visible role in the festivities, and the exposure and press overage in the area was extensive.



building project in the Houston Heights.

This project was made possible by the late Dr. Tom Reveley. Five years ago, Dr. Reveley, a long term treasurer and secretary for the district, deeded his home to the district to be used as a home office. With Dr. Reveley's death in 1995, the district inherited funds to be used for property improvements.

Recently the City of Houston Planning Commission approved a design and layout for the construction of two townhomes, one which will be sold and the other retained by the district as its home office. Mr. J. Davis

Lesbians and gays unite. The lesbian and gay community in the Philippines joined the rest of the world in celebrating lesbian and gay pride during a solidarity march on June 22, 1996, Saturday, 4:00 pm at the Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila. Marching in the parade were over 50 organizations led by CLIC, Gantimpala Theater Foundation, Gay Forum, Hair Watch, Kabalikat, Likhaan, Metropolitan Community Church, Progay, Remedios AIDS Foundation, Queenly Queers, Sama Kami, Sining Kayumangging Royal Family, The Library Foundation, Wedpro, Women's Media Circle and Zone.

The celebration culminated with a cultural show at the Remedios Circle. Invited performers are Grace Nono, Allan K., Arnel Ignacio, Philip Lazaro, Blue Cafe, and many other gay and lesbian performers. A joint statement of solidarity was issued during the show and street dancing followed. The show was hosted by Bernardo Bernardo and directed by Tony Espejo.

This event was organized by ReachOut AIDS Education Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, the City of Manila, the Ermita and Malate Business Association, DKT International, Insomnia Cafe, Friends of New Beginnings, The Library Sing-along Bar, Blue Cafe and Asia Brewery.

Edgar Mendoza, the lay pastor of MCC Manila reports: "It was a very successful event which landed in almost all newspapers in



among them as well, some who may be in the closet yet themselves.

Edgar reminds us, perhaps without being aware of it himself, how vital it is for us to swing wide the many closet doors of our lives to make room for each other. I am reminded again how rich our diversity and how common our needs. Some of us in the UFMCC have been pounding the streets of our countries wearing the faces of freedom and insisting others see us and know us and make room for us for a very long time. Others, like those in Manila, are venturing out for the first time in their life. Still others have not yet heard the song ... We Are Family.

When these photos came across my desk last week and when I looked deep into the faces of our sisters and brothers holding the banners—MCC MANILA, I AM GAY AND I AM YOUR NEIGHBOR—I recognized you and I, remembered my first gay pride march, and I knew again how good it is to belong to the UFMCC CLIC! And how terribly important it is for us to keep all the doors and windows wide open for the many who still want to hear our song. And to wear the face of freedom

HONORSALASKA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MCC Member Selected for Convention

Dan Carter, a member of the Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church was among the 27 people selected to represent Alaska Democrats at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois the last week of August. Dan will also attend a meeting of the Democratic Party's Standing Committee on Rules in Pittsburgh the first week of August as the sole representative for the State of Alaska.

Dan has been a member of UFMCC for eight years, having first attended a Gay Pride service at St. Luke's MCC in Jacksonville, Florida when he was on vacation about 10 years ago. He is currently the chair of the Pastoral Search Committee and has recently been appointed to the Church Board and serves as church treasurer. He is the co-chair of EQUAL (Equality Under Alaskan Law), which—with over 1,150 members—is Alaska's largest predominantly L/B/G/T political education group.

Many of you may know Dan from the Internet (alaskadan@aol.com). He encourages any delegates or MCC



DOING JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

Pride Without Borders

For a dozen years, I stood in the shadows during Pride Week, watching God's lesbian and gay children celebrate their sexuality, wishing I could join in that celebration. From a distance, I cheered secretly the boys in bikinis, the dykes on bikes, and the elegant, bearded man in high heels and chiffon. I longed to step down from the curb and join Troy Perry, marchers from the UFMCC, and other lesbian churches, synagogues, and spirit groups. When ACT-UP walked by wearing "silence=death" T-shirts, I wondered if I would ever have the courage to take my own stand against the religious and political extremists. And every time a P-FLAG parent walked by, I blinked back tears, fearing what my family might say if they knew the truth about me.

For a quarter-of-a-century, I believed sincerely that my homosexual desires were both sick and sinful. Then, hiding in the back row of a humble, little MCC sanctuary in North Hollywood, California, I heard the good news. "Your homosexuality is a gift from God," said Ken Martin, my first MCC pastor. "Embrace it. Celebrate it. And live it with integrity." Through Ken, I learned that the passion burning inside me was not a fire to be extinguished but an amazing source of heat and light and power.

Almost immediately, I discovered other personal borders that had to be crossed. Nancy Wilson and other lesbian sisters took me by the hand to lead me across the barrier of white, male, privilege into a vision of the new community they hoped we could build together. New bisexual and transgendered friends helped me dump the old ignorance and bigotry I still carried about the splendid varieties of human sexuality. I learned that celebrating my homospiritality was as important as celebrating my homosexuality and that all my new sisters and brothers, even the agnostics and the atheists among us, were on spiritual journeys not unlike my own. And ironically, it wasn't until I accepted my own gay-spirit that I discovered soul force, the militant non-violent way to do justice based on the teachings of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Jesus, the radical young Jew who loved prostitutes, lepers and outcasts and hated the hypocrisy and false teachings of the religious political extremists.

This year on Pride Sunday in Los Angeles, I rode down Santa Monica Blvd in a shiny black convertible with "Man of the Year" written on the side. My partner, Gary Nixon, and my son, Michael, rode beside me trying to teach me to wave "like a queen." As we passed our new UFMCC headquarters building, I was surprised to see elders and staffers cheering and waving signs of love and support. In the bleachers nearby, Tom Cole, Ken Martin's life partner, led another MCC delegation cheering and throwing tortillas. Above them all I heard a familiar voice shouting "We love you, Mel." It was Troy Perry, leaning dangerously from the balcony to cheer me on. Whatever the architects do to our existing new headquarters, it will always be for me a picture of Christ's body, the church, the place where our founder leans dangerously from the balcony to cheer us on.

How ironic, after all those years standing in the shadows, I was riding in a place of honor when the very people who deserve the credit for my emancipation were in the bleachers cheering. And above the happy scene, I felt the loving presence of Jesus, surrounded by that great cloud of friends who also helped lead me towards freedom but never lived to see that day. Their tears of pride and gratitude mingled with my own.

town. MCC Manila delivered the invocation which ended with a rendition of the song 'Amen' by the choir. At this event MCC Manila launched the Gay 1996 (Gay Awareness Year) with the theme 'I am gay and I am your neighbor' which we continuously chanted during the march. People were commenting that we are the only group that is composed of gays and lesbians which they say is good because other groups were either a gay group or lesbian group only. The march ended with disco dancing, literally 'dancing in the street' to the tune of 'We Are Family.' It was fun. Participants and curious on-lookers all danced through the night.

"The press coverage for almost all the groups featured in the papers ended with the event. But not MCC Manila. The next day, Sunday of June 23, we were 'ambush interviewed' during our service. We were invaded by TV cameras and crews and TV writers. I realized that I have made my first national public appearance.

"I'm all out. I feel free, but with some apprehensions. Up to this writing, I still get calls from the TV press for talk shows. I feel like I was brought to the war, but can't see where the battlefield is. I need all your prayers."

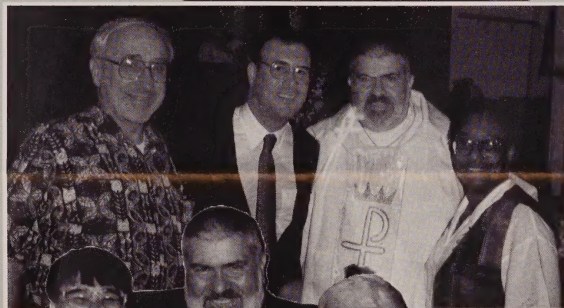
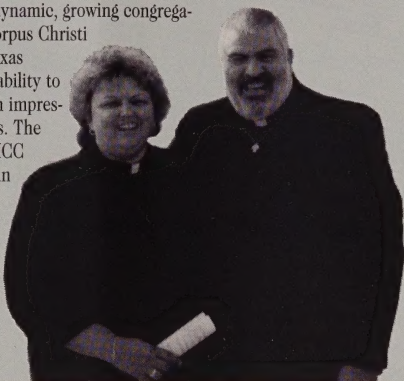
One of the groups in Manila is CLIC an acronym for Can't Live In the Closet Inc. A compelling name as I consider the cliques we form in society. As gay and lesbian folks, we often have drawn the circle to keep others out, or ourselves in. It makes me feel so proud to know MCC Manila is seen by others in Manila as a group for both gay men and lesbians. No doubt there are bisexuals and transgendered folks

Greetings from the Road ...

Rev. Troy Perry continues his tour of the Fellowship as the Capital Campaign moves into Phase Two of its efforts. Now that escrow has closed and the building belongs to UFMCC/MCCLA, the Capital Campaign has set its sights on retiring the entire debt of the building, plus raising funds to complete the build-out of the master plan.

Recently, three dynamic, growing congregations in Houston, Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Texas demonstrated their ability to share the vision with impressive gifts and pledges. The total pledged from MCC of the Resurrection in Houston was the largest amount from any single MCC church to date.

■ **Right**—Rev. Perry and Rev. Sandy O'Steen of Corpus Christi.



■ **Above**—Rev. Ralph Lasher, Rev. Jim Byrnes and Carolyn Mobley with Rev. Perry in Houston. **Left**—Rev. Perry greets Loretta and Joyce in Corpus Christi.

KEEPING IN TOUCH/AUGUST 1996

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; 213/464-5100 Fax 213/464-2123. UFMCC Email: UFMCCHQ@aol.com. Webpage address: <http://www.ufmcc.com>. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board:

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator; Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:

Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez, Dana Cagle

members who may be in Chicago to get in touch with him. He is also establishing an online directory of all MCC members online. If you would like to be included in this directory, send him a message at the email address shown above.

Dan says he is proud to be a member of UFMCC and a "political junkie." He sees his social activism as a significant part of his Christianity. Dan says, "Our government should be a reflection of us. A government that turns it back on the poor, elderly, disabled or oppressed does not represent me or my view of Christian compassion. Churches involved in politics is not the problem—the problem is most churches involved take a right-wing position on issues. It's time for ALL churches to get involved."

GENERAL CONFERENCE/NATHAN MECKLEY

Boesak to Speak at Sydney Conference

World-renowned South African theologian, author and anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak will speak at the 1997 UFMCC General Conference in Sydney, Australia.



Allan Boesak is perhaps best known for his participation in the

struggle against apartheid in South Africa for nearly two decades with the United Democratic Front and the African National Congress. Reverend Boesak, an ordained minister of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church, has also served his denomination and ecumenical organizations in many other capacities. He was instrumental in writing the *Confession of Belhar* moving the Dutch Reformed Mission Church towards union with the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa in 1992, and was president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. He also served on the South African Council of Churches and as consultant to the All African Conference of Churches, as well as speaking and lecturing widely at different institutions and universities around the world.

Boesak also served as a member of the Commission on Global Governance, an independent, international commission which studies how the United Nations and other international bodies can be changed in order to respond better and more responsible

to the challenges of global governance. The report of the commission, *Our Global Neighbourhood*, has been published to critical acclaim and world-wide study.

Receiving his theological training in Africa and the Netherlands and a Doctorate of Theology from the John Calvin Foundation at the Theological University of Kampen, Reverend Boesak has received numerous awards and ten honorary degrees. He has authored more than ten books translated into many languages including, *Coming in Out of the Wilderness*, *Black and Reformed*, *When Prayer Makes News*, *Comfort and Protest*, and *The Finger of God*.

Reverend Boesak has recently moved to Berkeley, California in association with the American Baptist Seminary of the West at the Graduate Theological Union. In accepting Reverend Troy Perry's invitation, Boesak wrote that he, "admires greatly the work you do even as I regret that this particular battle is necessary at all." He further shared that he is, "honored by the invitation. The cause you represent is close to my heart and I deem it important for me to be with you."

■ **Hear Reverend Allan Boesak at the 1997 UFMCC General Conference to be held July 20 through 25 in Sydney, Australia. For travel and lodging information, contact Above and Beyond Tours at 800/397-2681. For registration or other information, contact the UFMCC offices.**

DISTRICTS/SOUTH CENTRAL

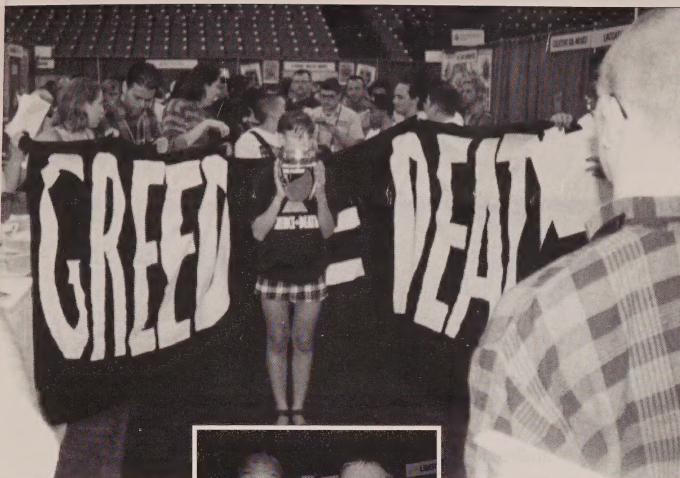
Rev. Nealy New South Central Coordinator

Rev. Eleanor Nealy became the new district coordinator of the South Central District effective July 1st. Rev. Nealy has been an active mem-



ber of UFMCC since 1983. She was a member of the MCC New York congregation as chair of the Spiritual

Development Committee, and also served the Northeast District as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Before joining MCC New York, Rev. Nealy was the pastor of MCC Christ the Liberator in New



■ Above- "Greed=Death" banner is displayed at Vancouver conference. Right- Steve Wakefield from the Chicago area, and Rev. Steve Pieters from UFMCC.

Jersey. Prior to assuming her duties as district coordinator, she was employed as the director of Project Connect, a drug and alcohol program at the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

Rev. Nealy holds a B.S. in Bible and a Bachelors of Social Work from Philadelphia College of Bible. She also has a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work.

The new District Coordinator says this about her new district and position: "This is a district with incredible resources and diversity. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a partner in the ministry here."

HIV/AIDS REV. STEVE PIETERS

UFMCC Presence at AIDS Conference

Rev. Steve Pieters attended the Eleventh International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, Canada, and distributed UFMCC AIDS Ministry resources to delegates from around the world.

The conference provided hope for prolonged life through new drug treatments. Unfortunately, these advances will only be available for 10% of the

persons living with HIV/AIDS in the world, since it will now cost an estimated \$15,000 to \$30,000 a year for the drug combinations that will control the infection.

Studies presented at the conference showed that combinations of antivirals like AZT, 3TC and protease inhibitors like Crixivan have been shown to reduce viral load to undetectable levels, and raise CD4 counts to a sustained normal level in preliminary trials. This means that for the privileged 10%, HIV/AIDS is becoming a chronic, manageable disease. It must be understood that patient compliance and tolerance of these new drug "cocktails" are necessary for this to be a reality.

Prevention efforts are working in countries where frank discussion of sexuality and needle exchange programs are accepted. The U.S. was criticized time and again for its failure to establish such programs. Immigration issues for persons with HIV/AIDS were also raised, when presenters reminded us that persons living with HIV/AIDS are not allowed into Russia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

Other justice issues, such as access to drug treatments in "developing" countries, human rights issues, and the empowerment of women over their own lives and bodies were discussed with great vigor and anger. Determination for global justice in HIV/AIDS issues defined much of the conference.

The first interfaith service ever held at an international conference featured dance, music, and readings from Canada's First Nations peoples, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Daily demonstrations gave opportunity to many persons to vent anger and frustration. Persons living with HIV/AIDS made increasing strides in participating and influencing the entire conference.

Women's issues were front and center, as it becomes clearer that gender inequities around the world are contributing to the continuing spread of HIV, particularly

among women. In some countries, HIV is known as a "family disease" since it kills whole families.

On a more positive note, networking opportunities were tremendous, and it was gratifying to hear over and over how MCC churches around the world are respected for their AIDS ministries.

The international scope of the conference was as overwhelming as the amount of information offered. The optimism expressed by many researchers was tempered by the awareness of how HIV is widening the gap between rich and poor, north and south, "developed" and "developing" countries.

Pieters provided daily reports on the conference over the internet to all the UFMCC churches and persons on the UFMCC AIDS Action Alert E-mail List.

VOLUNTEERS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Seeking Volunteers for Elders Committee

The General Council is seeking to appoint members to the Elders Nominating Committee. Two positions are open, one for a layperson and one for a clergyperson. The committee has the responsibility to receive and review any and all nominees for the Board of Elders. The committee will present the nominees at the General Conference in 1997. Please send resume to Clerk, Board of Elders at 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles California 90029. Deadline is September 15, 1996. Selection will be announced after General Council meets in October.

CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., No. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

MCC-Boston is seeking applicants for Senior Pastor. We are a small congregation with active lay participation and potential for growth. The position initially is part-time with expectations of moving to full-time. We are seeking a Pastor committed to inclusiveness and lay participation, who can help us grow and become more involved in the community. For more information write: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 15590, Kenmore Boston, MA 02215. Deadline for application submissions is Sept. 1, 1996. Women and People of Color are encouraged to apply.

Staff Position Available: Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston TX is looking for a dynamic person to work with Cell Group Leaders, provide ongoing leadership training for interns, develop cell groups in a district area with potential for opening a satellite church. 20 hours/week initially with potential for full-time within 6 months. Excellent opportunities for growth and development using the Cell Group Church Model. For an application or more information write: Rev. Janet Parker, Maranatha Fellowship MCC, 3400 Montrose, suite 600, Houston TX 77006 or call/fax: 713-528-6756.

Position Available: Assistant/Associate Pastor in MCC Las Vegas, NV. The position involves AIDS/home visitation and Administration of bible study/affinity group management. Beginning part-time salary \$500.00 per month expected to be full time in future. Provide sacred and secular resume to: MCC/LV, 1140 Almond Tree Ln, #302, Las Vegas, NV 89104-3233.

Seeking full-time compassionate pastor and spiritual leader for mid-size Church family in Palm Beach County, Florida. For more information please write: Pastoral Search Committee, Church of Our Savior, PO Box 812601, Boca Raton, Florida 33481-2601.

Welcome to the Greatland! Lamb of God MCC seeks pastor to lead small congregation with growth potential. For more information write to: Dan Carter, Pastoral Search Committee, Box 210072, Anchorage AK 99521-0072. All contacts will be kept confidential.

Northwest District seeks person with successful pastoral and administrative skills for District Coordinator beginning May 1997 for a four year term. The current District Coordinator is expected to apply. Contact NWD UFMCC DC Search Committee through Bob Buhlis, Chair, 228 Commercial St., Nevada City, CA 95959-2507 (VM 916-478-8943 FAX 916-265-3299). Deadline for application packet request is 11/15/96.

24 Henry Guesthouse is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686 Fax: 415-864-0406

Translation Services - correction, spelling and typing of materials from English into Spanish or vice versa. Reasonable prices. Call 805-488-3147.

Attention Gay Service members! Know your legal rights! Say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service members Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling. 202-328-FAIR



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2. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg FL 3,513.76
3. MCC Washington, Washington DC 2,580.91
4. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville FL 2,363.41
5. MCC of the Rockies, Denver CO 1,944.61
6. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach CA 1,731.75
7. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta GA 1,673.33
8. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco CA 1,624.98
9. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston TX 1,620.98
10. MCC New York, New York City, NY 1,475.87
11. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte NC 1,384.10
12. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA 1,346.74
13. Church of Our Savior MCC,
Boca Raton FL 1,326.70
14. MCC Richmond, Richmond VA 1,320.13
15. Open Door MCC, Boyds MD 1,205.87
16. MCC Charleston, Charleston SC 1,082.07
17. Agape MCC, Ft. Worth TX 1,014.36
18. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque NM 1,012.68
19. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita KS 1,008.11
20. MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis MO 998.12

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

June 1996

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo CA 50.03
2. MCC of the Disciples, Washington DC 40.65
3. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton FL 37.80
4. Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage AK 37.36
5. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston TX 35.86
6. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach CA 33.56
7. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee KS 33.16
8. Trinity MCC, Arlington TX 31.94
9. Open Arms MCC, Rochester NY 31.93
10. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque NM 31.75
11. MCC of the Peninsula, Redwood City CA 27.39
12. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley CA 26.77
13. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City KS 26.13
14. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis TN 26.01
15. MCC Knoxville, Knoxville TN 25.89
16. New Life MCC, Charlotte NC 23.30
17. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston TX 23.18
18. MCC of Northern Virginia (NOVA), Falls Church VA 22.88
19. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago IL 22.58
20. Spirit Song MCC, Little Rock AR 22.05

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.)

**UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES**



BYLAWS

*Revised at General Conference XVII,
July 1995 - Atlanta, Georgia USA*

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THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

BYLAWS

(Revised at General Conference XVI, Phoenix, AZ, USA July 1993)

ARTICLE I NAME

A. The name of this Fellowship shall be the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.

B. Each affiliated local church group will use the name METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH as part of its official title. The group may add either a prefix or suffix to distinguish it from other affiliated local church groups, such as: "Grace Metropolitan Community Church," "Metropolitan Community Church of Tallahassee," "Metropolitan Community Church, Ashland" or "Springfield Metropolitan Community Church."

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The objective of this Fellowship shall be:

A. To bind together churches for the purpose of sharing in the worship of God in the Christian tradition, and to make God's will dominant in the lives of all people, individually and collectively, as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

B. To set up bodies for instruction in theology and in allied subjects for the propagation of the teachings of the Christian faith, as accepted by the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

C. To instruct and encourage those who offer themselves to the teaching and philosophy accepted by this body.

D. To do all things that are compatible with the work of a Christian Church.

ARTICLE III

DOCTRINE, SACRAMENTS AND RITES

A. DOCTRINE: Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. Jesus Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian Church in every age and in every land.

Founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches moves in the mainstream of Christianity.

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles and Nicene.

We believe:

1. In one triune God, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God, - our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit, - God as our Sustainer.

2. That the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

3. That Jesus...the Christ...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is God incarnate, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image.

4. That the Holy Spirit is God making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping.

5. Every person is justified by grace to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

6. We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of grace, as was declared by our Savior. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

1 7. The Church serves to bring all people to God through Christ. To
2 this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

3
4
5 B. SACRAMENTS: This Church embraces two holy Sacraments:

6
7 1. BAPTISM by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures,
8 shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service.
9 Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified
10 as God's own Child.

11
12 2. HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit
13 of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign: "This is
14 my body...this is my blood." (Matthew 26:26-28). All who believe, confess
15 and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their
16 consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their
17 desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by
18 Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and
19 to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

20 C. RITES: The Rites of the Church as performed by its duly
21 authorized ministers shall consist of the following:

22
23 1. The RITE OF ORDINATION is the setting apart of duly qualified
24 persons for the professional ministry of this Church. It is evidenced by the
25 laying on of hands by authorized ordained clergy, pursuant to these
26 Bylaws.

27 2. The RITE OF ATTAINING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH
28 shall be conducted by the pastor or pastoral leader before a local congregation at any regular worship service. After completing classes for instruction in the beliefs and doctrines of the Church, a baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the local church group through a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through affirmation of faith.

29
30
31 3. The RITE OF HOLY UNION and the RITE OF HOLY MATRIMONY are the spiritual joining of two persons in a manner fitting and proper by a duly authorized clergy of the Church. After both persons have been counseled and apprised of their responsibilities one towards the other, this rite of conferring God's blessing may be performed.

32
33
34
35 4. The RITE OF FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE is to be
36 fittingly conducted by the ministers of the Church for the deceased.
37
38
39
40
41
42

5. The RITE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS or prayer for the healing of the sick in mind, body or spirit is to be conducted by the ministers of the Church, at their discretion, upon request.

6. The RITE OF BLESSING may be conducted by the ministers of the Church for persons, things and relationships, when deemed appropriate by the minister. This includes the dedication of a church building to the glory of God.

ARTICLE IV MINISTRY

The UFMCC affirms the universal priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-10). All members of the Church are called by God to a ministry of the Gospel of Christ in the Church and in the world.

UFMCC decrees that all people shall have equality of access and opportunity which is free from discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, physical challenge, HIV status, health status, gender identification, nationality, or economic status in terms of:

- 1] Employment and personnel procedures
- 2] Service delivery -- all that we do.

A. MINISTRY OF THE LAITY

1. The Priesthood of All Believers: Laypeople are the People of God, called by God and authorized by Scripture to respond to the Word, serving as Christ served, to the end that the Church may be edified and the world transformed. UFMCC affirms that this is the ministry of every layperson in this Fellowship.

2. DEACONS: As outlined in the New Testament, their office is an historic ministry of service and aid within the Christian Church.

B. MINISTRY OF THE CLERGY:

1. CLERGY: Clergy are members of the People of God, called by God, authorized and legally recognized by this Fellowship to serve among the people as professional ministers of the Word and Sacraments.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES: In accordance with their call, clergy shall administer the Rites and Sacraments of this Fellowship and be teachers and preachers of the faith to the end that the world may believe and the Church might be renewed, equipped, and strengthened in its ministry.

(b) **QUALIFICATIONS:** Clergy are those persons of professed and demonstrated call to be professional Christian ministers who meet the qualifications established by the Steering Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. These qualifications shall be subject to approval of the General Council.

(c) **CREDENTIALS:** The Chairs of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall meet prior to every General Conference to review the standards and requirements for the clergy of UFMCC. They will make recommendations for changes to the General Council.

Persons who have met the academic standards, completed at least one year of Candidacy with a Teaching Church, and have been approved by the B.O.M. may then be ordained. A person who is ordained cannot function as a UFMCC clergy person until s/he is licensed. A License to Practice shall be immediately issued upon notification of the B.O.M. that the person is entering an active, authorized, and accountable ministry. The License to Practice must be renewed annually by the B.O.M.

(d) **DISCIPLINE:** The UFMCC will not condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty. Procedures for discipline shall be developed by the Steering Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by a majority vote of the General Council. These procedures shall be included as an addendum to the UFMCC Bylaws.

ARTICLE V GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

A. GOVERNMENT:

1. This Fellowship acknowledges the Holy Scriptures interpreted by the Holy Spirit in conscience and faith as its guide in faith, discipline and government.

2. The government of this Fellowship is vested in the General Conference, its District Conferences, Ministry of Global Outreach and Congregational Meetings, subject to the provisions of the Fellowship Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws, or documents of legal organization. The officers elected by the General and District Conferences and Congregational Meetings are subject to the direction and discipline of their respective bodies and are responsible to carry out their policies.

3. When a District desires more flexibility with respect to Articles IV through X of these Bylaws, it can apply to the General Council which may grant that flexibility.

1 4. This Fellowship is accountable to no outside ecclesiastical juris-
2 diction, but accepts the obligation of mutual consent and cooperation
3 involved in the free fellowship of other churches, and does pledge itself to
4 share in their common aims and endeavors subject to the expressed
5 approval of its membership.

6
7 5. Local Churches, Districts, District Conferences, The Ministry of
8 Global Outreach and the General Conference/World Jubilee as defined by
9 these Bylaws, are set forth for the purposes of Christian fellowship,
10 worship, witness, and service, borne in the cooperation, program develop-
11 ment, and implementation of their Bylaws, Standard Operating Proce-
12 dures, and Policies.

13 6. A local church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Com-
14 munity Churches (hereinafter referred to as UFMCC) is that church which
15 subscribes to the government and doctrine of the UFMCC, and has been
16 authorized by the same.

17 B. LOCAL COMMISSIONED AND CHARTERED CHURCHES:

18
19 1. INTRODUCTION: The government of each of the local churches
20 is vested in its congregational meetings which exert the right to control all
21 of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorpor-
22 ation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, the General Confer-
23 ence, and its District Conferences. The Pastor and Board of Directors/local
24 church administrative body are authorized to provide spiritual and admin-
25 istrative leadership in the local church.

26
27 2. PASTOR: The Pastor is a duly ordained clergy person who has
28 been licensed to practice. Though there are a variety of pastoral roles, in
29 a local congregation the pastor is elected to be responsible for the duties of
30 teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader. If no duly credentialed UFMCC
31 clergy person is available, an Interim Pastoral Leader may be appointed
32 annually by the District Coordinator and the District Committee/Admin-
33 istrator of the Ministry of Global Outreach. All pastors of non-chartered
34 churches must be approved by the District Coordinator and District
35 Committee/Administrator of the Ministry of Global Outreach. All UFMCC
36 churches are led by pastors or interim pastoral leaders.

37 (a) QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES: Pastors must be
38 credentialed clergy in the UFMCC. The Pastor of the church shall have the
39 authority for ordering all worship services of the church. The Pastor is a
40 voting member of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body.
41 The Pastor shall serve as the moderator of congregational meetings and the
42 Board of Directors/local church administrative body. Associate and/or
Assistant Pastor(s) and other personnel, uncompensated or compensated,

1 shall be appointed by the Pastor subject to the approval of the Board of
2 Directors/local church administrative body. The Pastor shall act as person-
3 nel director of the local church staff, shall have the authority to delegate
4 such responsibilities and duties as seem wise, and shall, with the approval
5 of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body, determine
6 compensation, vacation periods, and titles of office of the staff.

7
8 (b) CONFLICT RESOLUTION: When there are apparent
9 irreconcilable differences between the Pastor and congregation, the Pastor
10 or the Board of Directors/local church administrative body, may request
11 that a Ministry of Reconciliation, in accordance with Scripture, be facili-
12 tated by the District Coordinator or a person appointed by the District
13 Coordinator. Within twenty-four (24) hours of initiating the request, the
14 District Coordinator and all parties mentioned above must be officially
15 notified by the source of the request. Within ten (10) days of the request,
16 the District Coordinator or the person appointed by the District Coordina-
17 tor will establish the time-lines and process for the Ministry of Reconcili-
18 ation, which must be implemented within thirty (30) days of the initial
19 request. If differences cannot be resolved, they may through mutual
20 agreement choose to terminate their relationship. No petition for removal
21 of the Pastor based on irreconcilable differences is valid unless preceded by
22 a Ministry of Reconciliation. Unilateral failure to renew a pastoral contract
23 does not constitute removal of the Pastor from office.

24 (c) The process of removing the Pastor from office for disloy-
25 alty, unbecoming conduct, dereliction of duty or when irreconcilable
26 differences arise between Pastor and congregation may be initiated by: a
27 petition submitted to the duly authorized church officer as designated by
28 the local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, or documents of legal
29 organization, and signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the
30 members in good standing; or by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the full
31 Board of Directors/local church administrative body. Within three (3) days,
32 the Pastor and the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach
33 Area and Ministry of Global Outreach Administrator, must be sent a copy
34 of the completed petition by the designated church officer.

35 After the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area and
36 designated local church officer have validated the number of members who
37 have signed the petition and the clarity of the petition, the District
38 Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area may place the Pastor on
39 inactive status, but the Pastor remains fully compensated until the final
40 action of the congregation. Upon validating the petition they will set the
41 time and place of a special congregational meeting. The date of the meeting
42 shall occur within thirty (30) days of the date the petition is submitted to
the designated church officer. The only question to be voted on at the
meeting shall be: "Shall the Pastor remain in office?"

The Pastor has the right to appear on their own behalf before the congregational meeting and may have an advocate of their own choice present. The action of the congregation is final. If a special meeting is called to remove a Pastor, the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area and the UFMCC Board of Elders must be given notice that such action is being taken. The District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area shall attend or send a representative as an impartial observer who shall moderate the meeting. If the Pastor is removed, the Board of Directors/local church administrative body will meet immediately after the meeting with the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area or the representative to provide pastoral leadership until the pulpit is filled. The Board of Directors/local church administrative body will confer with the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global Outreach Area as to available candidates for the office of Pastor.

3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS/LOCAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

(a) TERM OF OFFICE: The Board of Directors/local church administrative body elected by the local church shall consist of at least four (4) members of the Church who are in good standing, in addition to the Pastor. They shall hold office for a term of from one year (1) to three (3) years as determined by local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures with the exception of the Pastor who will hold office for as long as they occupy the pulpit of the church. Board of Directors/local church administrative body members' terms must be staggered. In the event of the resignation, death, or removal of a Board of Directors/local church administrative member, the remaining members of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body should appoint an interim member to serve until the next congregational meeting. At the next congregational meeting an open election shall be held for a replacement for the remainder of the original term.

(b) DUTIES: The Board of Directors/local church administrative body shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Articles of Incorporation or documents of legal organization, church property, and physical and financial affairs of the local church. This Board of Directors/local church administrative body shall have the responsibility for collecting and disbursing funds, keeping adequate church records, and making reports to the congregation and through the District to the UFMCC.

The Board of Directors/local church administrative body shall serve as a pastoral search committee upon the event of a pastoral vacancy. For the purpose of its function as a pastoral search committee, additional voting members may be appointed or elected as appropriate. When they have chosen a suitable qualified candidate or co-pastoral team, they shall present the name to the congregation for approval at a specially called meeting or at the next regular congregational meeting.

1 Every local church financial account is required to have a minimum of two
2 (2) signatories, who are chosen by the Board of Directors/local church
3 administrative body. Two (2) signatures will be required for any withdraw-
4 als. It is incumbent upon the Board of Directors/local church administra-
5 tive body of each local church to provide that church with a set of Bylaws
6 or Standard Operating Procedures.

7
8 (c) DISCIPLINE: Local churches of the UFMCC must not
9 condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty on the part
10 of any members of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body;
11 therefore the Board of Directors/local church administrative body may
12 remove, by a majority vote of the full Board of Directors/local church
13 administrative body, any of its members guilty of the above, with the
14 exception of the Pastor, who must be disciplined in accordance with Article
15 V.B2.c. A petition presented to the Board of Directors/local church admin-
16 istrative body and signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in
17 good standing of the congregation, may also initiate such a procedure. This
18 action of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body may be
19 subject to review by a vote of the congregation at its next regular
20 congregational meeting or at a special meeting which may be called, and
21 must be in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of this Fellowship
22 and the Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures of the local church.

22 (d) ACCOUNTABILITY: The Board of Directors/local church
23 administrative body shall be subject to these Bylaws, local Articles of
24 Incorporation, and local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, and to
25 the approval or disapproval by action of their local congregation as
26 provided for in any of the above.

27 4. LAY DELEGATE: Each voting church body shall have one (1) vote
28 for every one hundred (100) members in good standing or portion thereof
29 and shall elect one (1) Lay Delegate for each vote. Each Lay Delegate shall
30 carry one (1) vote. Each Lay Delegate shall be a member in good standing
31 of the congregation that he/she represents, should be elected at the first
32 congregational meeting following each General Conference and shall serve
33 a term of two (2) years. The duties of the Lay Delegate shall include, but
34 not be limited to, representation of the congregation at General and
35 District Conferences and to be informed of the UFMCC concerns and
36 policies.

37 Each voting church body may, in accordance with that local
38 church's Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures, elect at least one (1)
39 Alternate Lay Delegate for each Lay Delegate elected. The Alternate
40 Delegate(s) so elected shall, in accordance with procedures set forth in the
41 local church Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures, be empowered to
42 assume the duties of any Lay Delegate who is unable or unwilling to
perform the duties of Lay Delegate, including but not limited to, represen-
tation of the congregation at General and District Conferences.

1 5. DISCIPLINE OF CHURCHES: If any local voting church body
2 shall fail to abide by the Articles of Incorporation of the UFMCC, these
3 Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, or refuses to participate in
4 General or District Conferences, the General Council shall take appropri-
5 ate action to require compliance and participation. The General Council
6 shall have the authority to withdraw the commission, revoke the charter,
7 or take other appropriate action, and shall report any such action to the
8 District Committee/The Board of Ministry of Global Outreach, and the
9 church involved. The action will also be reported to the next General
10 Conference.

11 6. CHURCH PROPERTY: The Board of Directors/local church ad-
12 ministrative body of the local congregation of the UFMCC will name the
13 Board(s) of Trustees for any property acquired by said churches. The Board
14 of Directors/local church administrative body, and the members of each
15 local congregation will have sole control of said property except under the
16 following circumstances: 1) if the property is abandoned; 2) if the local
17 church is disbanded by the Board of Directors/local church administrative
18 body and the District Committee or Conference, or the General Council; or
19 3) if the local church disaffiliates from UFMCC. Should any of the above
20 circumstances exist, said property will revert to the use of the General
21 Conference of the UFMCC. The General Council will decide the disposition
22 of said property. In every nation where UFMCC comes to exist a paragraph
23 modeled on the following must be included in their document of legal
24 organization and must apply: "Local churches which are now incorporated
25 in the United States as nonprofit corporations under their state laws are
26 required to name the UFMCC as the successor 501(c)(3) corporation
27 designated to receive the church's property in the event of the dissolution
28 or abandonment of that incorporated local church, or disaffiliation from the
29 UFMCC by the local church."

30 7. RESERVATION OF POWERS: Any specific matters of congrega-
31 tional approval not covered herein are left to local church option.

32 C. DISTRICTS:

33
34 1. INTRODUCTION: Districts are those defined bodies which are
35 created by the Board of Elders in accordance with these Bylaws. They are
36 called into existence to enable and empower Christian ministry within
37 their jurisdiction through their member congregations and bodies. District
38 Conferences are legislative gatherings of the District for the purpose
39 defined in Article V.A.4. The District Conference is required to establish
40 District Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures for the nominations
41 and election of members of the District Committee, all District Officers,
42 and for the conducting of District business. The District Bylaws/Standard
Operating Procedures must be in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of UFMCC.

1 (a) CRITERIA: The following are criteria for establishing District
2 boundaries:

3 i. Districts may be international in their composition.
4

5 ii. Districts need to have sufficient financial support both (a) to
6 attract and ensure qualified and experienced full-time leadership that can
7 promote growth and (b) to provide resources to the local churches.
8

9 iii. Districts need to have a sufficient number of existing churches
10 that are willing and able to assist in promoting growth and ministry in a
11 District. Such churches are those with stable, effective pastoral leader-
12 ship, strong lay leadership and ministry programs; and a sufficient
13 financial and membership base to replicate leadership and support the
14 nurture of new churches under the authority of the District.

15 iv. Priority for District budgets shall be to provide for a full-time
16 District Coordinator, sufficient administrative support, and sufficient
17 funding to allow for travel by District Officers, including meetings of the
18 District Committee.

19 (b) GEOGRAPHIC REVIEW BOARD: The Geographic Review
20 Board will be comprised of three members appointed by the Board of Elders
21 and approved by the General Council.
22

23 (c) CHANGES TO DISTRICT BOUNDARIES: The following pro-
24 cess shall be followed to effect any change in District boundaries:

25 i. Requests for District boundary changes may be initiated and
26 reviewed by a District, two or more Districts, the General Council or the
27 Board of Elders.

28 ii. The Geographic Review Board will facilitate and service the
29 process regarding any District boundary change.
30

31 iii. The Geographic Review Board may recommend additional
32 criteria by which District boundaries are set and criteria by which District
33 boundaries are re-evaluated.
34

35 iv. The Geographic Review Board shall facilitate a process to
36 receive input from and consultation with Districts affected by any proposed
37 boundary change.

38 v. Recommendations of the Geographic Review Board for changes
39 in District boundaries will be submitted to the Board of Elders for approval
40 following consultation with the General Council.
41
42

2. DISTRICT COMMITTEE: The District Committee is that body elected by the District Conference to carry on the administrative affairs of the District between District Conferences in an orderly manner. It shall have charge of all matters pertaining to Articles of Incorporation, all documents of legal organization, property, and finances of the District. All actions of the District Committee must be reported to and approved by the District Conference, except where specifically provided for in these By-laws. This committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, as the District Conference may determine from time to time, including the District Coordinator and members representative of clergy and laity.

(a) QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS: Members of the District Committee must be members in good standing within the Fellowship, of obvious spiritual quality and leadership who are mature, have sound judgement and a proven record of accomplishment. Their term of office shall be two years, except that of the District Coordinator.

(b) DUTIES: It is the responsibility of the District Committee to propose a budget to the District Conference each year; to implement such a budget when adopted; to establish a procedure for formulating and distributing a tentative agenda for each District Conference, that agenda to be mailed to all delegates, District Officers, and congregations at least thirty (30) days prior to Conference; to establish and make appointments to committees and task forces of the District; to carry out the directives of the District Conference and of the General Conference as appropriate. It is also the responsibility of the District Committee to foster growth and development of new works within the District and to act upon petitions for commissioning and chartering according to the procedures established by the District Conference. The District Committee will name the Board(s) of Trustees for any property acquired by the District. All persons serving in elective office of the District Committee may have, at District option, both voice and vote at District Conferences.

(c) DISCIPLINE: The UFMCC cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct or dereliction of duty on the part of District Officers or members of the District Committee. Therefore the District Committee or District Officers may remove, by majority vote of the full Committee or Officers, any member(s) guilty of the above. Any member of the District Committee or a District Officer may be removed from office by the District Conference. When the District Conference is not in session, charges in writing against a District Officer or member of the District Committee, must be sent at the same time to the person charged and the General Council, who may suspend the officer or member of the District Committee so charged until the next District Conference which shall hear and act upon the charges without appeal. The written charges must be signed by a minimum of one credentialed clergy from each of fifty percent (50%) of the

1 churches or ten (10) churches within the District (whichever is less); and/
2 or by the lay delegates representing a majority of lay delegate votes of each
3 of fifty percent (50%) of the churches or ten (10) churches within the
4 District (whichever is less). The process may be initiated by either clergy
5 or lay.

6
7 **3. DISTRICT OFFICERS:**

8 **(a) DISTRICT COORDINATOR:**

9 **1. MINISTRY:** The District Coordinator shall be elected by the
10 District Conference for a term of four (4) years and shall serve as a member
11 of the General Council. The District shall be responsible for compensation
12 to its District Coordinator.

13 **2. REQUIREMENTS:** It shall be the duty of the District Coordi-
14 nator to provide spiritual direction and guidance; to act as Moderator at all
15 District Conferences; to represent the interests and perspectives of the
16 District to the General Council; to represent the General Council within
17 the District; to coordinate and administer the work of the District in
18 achieving its purposes; and to assure, together with the District Commit-
19 tee, that every church within the District is supplied with a Pastor or other
20 pastoral leadership. It shall be the right and duty of the District Coordina-
21 tor, or any representative whom the District Coordinator may delegate, to
22 visit all churches within the District. The District Coordinator shall also
23 serve as the Chair of the District Committee.

24 **3. QUALIFICATION:** District Coordinators are those persons of
25 professed and demonstrated call to be professional Christian leaders who
26 possess at least three years experience in the UFMCC and three years
27 experience in successful organizational leadership and have the skills to
28 work with local church and other district leadership.

29 **(b) OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS:** In addition to the Dis-
30 trict Coordinator, as specified above, the District shall provide for at least
31 the following officers:

32 **1. ASSISTANT DISTRICT COORDINATOR:** A
33 District Conference shall elect at least one Assistant District Coordinator
34 to assume the Chair at meetings of the District Conference or District
35 Committee in the absence of the District Coordinator, or at the District
36 Coordinator's request. Where multiple persons share this title, the District
37 Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures must specify the primary and
38 secondary position of these officers in respect to assuming the duties of the
39 District Coordinator. The Assistant District Coordinator shall perform
40 other duties as deemed appropriate by the District Coordinator and/or the
41 District Committee.

1
2 2. DISTRICT CLERK/SECRETARY: The District
3 Clerk/Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of District
4 business meetings; for publishing and disseminating to clergy and lay
5 delegates, District Officers and congregations tentative minutes of each
6 District business meeting within thirty (30) days; for keeping orderly files
7 of approved minutes and pertinent materials.

8 3. DISTRICT TREASURER: The District Trea-
9 surer shall be responsible for the receipt and safekeeping of all funds of the
10 District and those funds for which the District is responsible. The Trea-
11 surer shall be responsible for keeping accurate financial records and
12 disbursing funds in accordance with procedures approved by the District
13 Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare the quarterly financial state-
14 ment, a copy of which shall be sent to all District congregations, clergy and
15 lay delegates, District Officers, and the General Council. The Treasurer
16 shall present a financial report at each District Conference.

17 4. DISTRICT LAY REPRESENTATIVE: The Dis-
18 trict Lay Representative shall be elected by a majority of the lay delegates
19 at the District Conference immediately following the General Conference.
20 Once elected, the District Lay Representative shall be a member of the
21 District Commission on the Laity, represent the District on the UFMCC
22 Commission on the Laity, and shall encourage an annual visit to every
23 church within the District by a representative of the laity in accordance
24 with the District Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures.

25 (c) DISCIPLINE: Discipline of District Officers shall be in
26 accordance with the provisions of Article V.C.2.c.

27
28 4. RESERVATION OF POWERS: Any specific matters of District
29 approval or appeal not covered herein are left to District option.

30 D. FELLOWSHIP:

31
32 1. INTRODUCTION: Internationally, the government of the UFMCC
33 is vested in the General Conference, subject to the provisions of the
34 Fellowship Articles of Incorporation, its Bylaws, or documents of legal
35 organization. Between General Conferences, the Board of Elders and the
36 General Council are those bodies which are authorized to provide spiritual
37 and administrative leadership on the International Fellowship level.

38
39 2. BOARD OF ELDERS: The Board of Elders of the UFMCC is that
40 body authorized by the General Conference to serve in a pastoral role and
41 direct the spiritual life of the Fellowship. This Board shall consist of seven
42 (7) members, which shall be expanded to nine (9) members by the General

1 Conference once the number of Chartered Churches reaches one hundred
2 (100). For every fifty (50) additional Chartered Churches beyond one
3 hundred (100), the General Conference shall expand the Board by one (1)
4 additional member until a total of twelve (12) is reached. It is desirable that
5 the General Conference shall elect members of the Board of Elders so that
6 this Board is representative of the diversity of the Fellowship.

7 (a) QUALIFICATIONS: Elders must be those individuals of
8 obvious spiritual quality and leadership who are mature and have sound
9 judgement and a proven record of accomplishment as members within the
10 Fellowship.

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS: At General Council meetings imme-
12 diately following General Conference, the Board of Elders, subject to
13 General Council approval, will appoint the Elders' Nominating Committee
14 which will consist of the Chair, and one Clergy person and one Lay person.
15 This committee shall receive and review any and all nominations for the
16 position of Elder. This committee will then present to the General Confer-
17 ence qualified nominees for the purpose of filling the position available.
18 Nominations from the floor of General Conference will not be accepted. The
19 Nominations Committee shall make its report at the first business meeting
20 of General Conference. The nominees shall present themselves before the
21 delegates for open questioning as determined by the Nominations Commit-
22 tee. The election shall be held no less than two (2) days after the
23 nominations. The term of office for a member of the Board of Elders will be
24 four (4) years; except for The Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry, whose term on
25 the Board of Elders extends for the duration of his life, unless he chooses
26 to resign or is removed according to Article V.D.2.d.

27 (c) DUTIES: The primary responsibility of the Board of
28 Elders shall be to give pastoral leadership and care to enable the Fellow-
29 ship in our spiritual journey. This shall include the areas of evangelism,
30 ecumenism, and church visitation. The Elders will serve as official repre-
31 sentatives of the Fellowship in the areas of public and community rela-
32 tions. It is the responsibility of the Board of Elders, except where specifi-
33 cally provided for in these Bylaws, to make appointments to the various
34 Fellowship boards, commissions, committees and institutions, subject to
35 the approval of the General Council. The Moderator, elected by and from
36 the Board of Elders, is the chief corporate officer of the Fellowship and shall
37 preside over the General Conference and the General Council. A Vice
38 Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall also be elected by and from the
39 Board, and shall serve in those capacities on the General Council. In the
40 case of a vacancy among the Board of Elders occurring between General
41 Conferences, the Board of Elders shall appoint to the position a person who
42 meets the above qualifications subject to confirmation of the General
Council. An election for the remainder of the uncompleted term of Elder

shall be conducted at the next General Conference.

(d) **DISCIPLINE:** The UFMCC cannot condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty on the part of its Elders and, therefore, makes the following provisions for discipline or removal:

All charges against an Elder must be submitted to the Board of Elders in written form signed by a minimum of one (1) member of the clergy from each of ten (10) different churches and by the lay delegates representing the majority of the lay delegate votes from each of ten (10) different churches, and may be initiated by either the clergy or lay delegates. The Elder must be given written notice of the charges, and at that time becomes inactive and if salaried, remains fully compensated until final disposition of these charges. The Elder has the right to appear and present their own defense before the Board of Elders on their own behalf. The Board of Elders will then review the charges, and, upon majority vote of the full Board, may remove the Elder or take other such action as it may deem appropriate. The only appeal from the decision of the Board of Elders will be to the General Conference of the Fellowship, and written notice of such appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Elders within thirty (30) days.

3. **GENERAL COUNCIL:** The General Council of the UFMCC is that body authorized by the General Conference to carry on the administrative affairs of the UFMCC between General Conferences in an orderly manner and is composed of the Board of Elders and all District Coordinators. If the District Coordinator is unable to attend, an Assistant District Coordinator may represent the District. The General Council shall have charge of all matters pertaining to Articles of Incorporation, all documents of legal organization, property, and finances of the UFMCC.

(a) **DUTIES:** It shall be the responsibility of the General Council to approve the establishment of and the appointment to the various Fellowship boards, commissions, committees, and institutions. The General Council is also empowered to collect and disburse funds for the advancement and growth of the UFMCC. In addition, the Council is charged to carry out all directives of the General Conference. All actions of this Council must be reported to, and approved by the General Conference except where specifically provided for in these Bylaws. When church bodies or members of the Fellowship raise a question of interpretation of the Bylaws by official action the General Council as an administrative body of the Fellowship is authorized to issue an advisory interpretation of the Bylaws for that situation.

(b) **DISCIPLINE:** The discipline for members of the General Council is the same as defined for Elders in Article V.D.2.d. and for District Coordinators in Article V.C.2.c.

4. MINISTRY OF GLOBAL OUTREACH:

(a) Purpose: The challenge of The Ministry of Global Outreach is to share the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all races and in all countries. We are to be respectful of cultural differences as we present the vision of UFMCC through media, literature, and visitation. The mission of the Ministry of Global Outreach is the establishment of indigenous, self-supporting, self-propagating UFMCC congregations which in turn fully participate in the witness and ministry of the church, local and universal.

(b) Ministry of Global Outreach: The Board of Ministry of Global Outreach shall be appointed by the Board of Elders and approved by the General Council.

(c) Global Outreach Administrator: The Global Outreach Administrator is appointed by the Board of Elders and approved by the General Council. The Global Outreach Administrator is responsible for the management of the UFMCC policy and program of the Ministry of Global Outreach.

(d) Coordinators of Global Outreach Areas: The Coordinators of Global Outreach Areas oversee geographical areas and jurisdictions according to procedures specified in the Ministry of Global Outreach policy. They are appointed by the Board of Elders, accountable to the Board of Ministry of Global Outreach and are supervised by the Global Outreach Administrator.

(e) Approval of Church Bodies: When sufficient interest and support exist, the Board of Ministry of Global Outreach may approve church bodies in accordance with Article VI. in these Bylaws, and Global Outreach policy.

(f) UFMCC Participation: A church within a Global Outreach area or jurisdiction may designate any elected lay delegate to vote by proxy at the General Conference in accordance with provisions determined by the Board of Ministry of Global Outreach. Representation to UFMCC commissions, boards and committees or task forces shall be by appointment of the Global Outreach Administrator, subject to the approval of the General Council.

(g) Approval of Districts: When sufficient criteria as established by the Board of Elders are met, church bodies within a geographic area and jurisdiction may petition the Board of Ministry of Global Outreach to become a District. The Board of Ministry of Global Outreach will then forward such petition and its recommendation to the Board of Elders for consideration.

1 (h) Finances: Tithes, assessments and other funds from
2 churches within a Global Outreach area or jurisdiction shall be maintained
3 in an account within the national boundaries of those churches, and
4 managed in compliance with national laws. Such funds shall be under the
5 direction of the Global Outreach Area Coordinator, subject to the approval
6 of the Global Outreach Administrator and the Board of Ministry of Global
7 Outreach. Funds remitted to the Fellowship for Global Outreach shall be
8 under the jurisdiction of the Global Outreach Administrator and the Board
9 of Ministry of Global Outreach.

10 **ARTICLE VI**

11 **NEW AND SPECIAL WORKS,**

12 **AND VOTING CHURCH BODIES**

13 **A. INTRODUCTION:**

- 14 1. Within the UFMCC, all church bodies are referred to as Churches.
- 15 2. The District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global Outreach
16 shall establish procedures and standards for admission of new works,
17 commissioning and chartering of Churches, subject to the approval of the
18 General Council and the District Conference.
- 19 3. The District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global Outreach
20 commissions and is responsible for special works within their jurisdiction.

21 **B. VOTING CHURCH BODIES:**

- 22 1. COMMISSIONED CHURCHES: In order for a new work to be
23 commissioned by the UFMCC, the new work must, by petition to the
24 appropriate District or Board of Ministry of Global Outreach, show a
25 pledged commitment to: 1) uphold the Statement of Faith and the Bylaws
26 of the UFMCC; 2) actively support the work of the Church over the next
27 year; 3) provide adequate financial support to carry out the work of the
28 Church over the next year; and 4) insure that those people signing the
29 petition have a record of attendance at organizational meetings. The
30 petition, to be submitted to the District Coordinator/Coordinator of Global
31 Outreach must provide a list of stated goals of the local church for the next
32 year in inclusivity, worship, congregational care, evangelism, education,
33 and stewardship. When the District Committee/Board of Ministry of
34 Global Outreach finds that the petition pledges an acceptable level of
35 commitment and support, the District Committee/Board of Ministry of
36 Global Outreach may commission the Church for a period of up to one (1)
37 year, renewable by the District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global
38 Outreach. Successive annual petitions for renewal should give evidence of
39 continued growth and progress toward chartering.
40
41
42

2. CHARTERED CHURCHES: When a commissioned Church has a stable membership which demonstrates: 1) a pledged commitment to uphold the Statement of Faith and the Bylaws of the UFMCC; 2) a willingness and ability to support a full time Pastor; 3) a willingness to provide to the limit of its ability for the expenses of its Pastor and lay delegate(s) to District and General Conferences, and 4) plans for continuing work and growth in the areas of inclusivity, worship, congregational care, evangelism, education, and stewardship, the District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global Outreach shall review the Church's petition and records and may request the General Council to issue a charter. Any exception to the support of Pastor/lay delegate expenses must be approved in advance by the District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global Outreach. They may recommend further action by the Church before recommending a charter. If the District Committee/Board of Ministry of Global Outreach recommends a charter, it shall also recommend an effective date of that charter. Each District Committee may establish procedures for it to review all charters within its District at least once every five (5) years, and may develop standards by which charters within its District may be maintained. The Board of Ministry of Global Outreach may review all charters within the Global Outreach areas at least once every five (5) years, and may develop standards by which charters in the Global Outreach areas may be maintained.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

PROVISIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH ARE
DEFINED IN ARTICLE III. SECTION C OF THESE BYLAWS.

A. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING: At least once a year the Board of Directors/local church administrative body of a Church shall review the entire membership. Any member who does not have registered attendance, identified financial support, definite service contribution, and demonstrated interest and loyalty within the preceding period of six (6) months to one (1) year may be removed from the roll of members in good standing and placed on a list of inactive members. At that time the Board of Directors/local church administrative body of the Church shall notify the member in writing that the member has been placed on such a list and is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the Church. After notification if the member has not demonstrated further interest or loyalty for a period of two (2) months immediately following, the Board of Directors of the Church shall have the authority, at their discretion, to drop any such member from the local church roll of members in good standing. The member may be restored to the roll of members in good standing of the congregation by a vote of the Board of Directors/local church administrative body of the Church without a public reception into membership.

1 B. FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH: A local church body may, if it
2 desires, accept into the Church person(s) who, for one reason or another,
3 feel that they cannot become regular members of the Church but who
4 support the goals of the Church and want to be part of the work of the
5 church. Such people shall be designated as "Friends of the Church."
6 Friends may serve on appointed committees and may participate in all
7 activities of the Church. Friends may not, however, serve on the Board of
8 Directors/local church administrative body and may not vote at congrega-
9 tional meetings. Friends shall not be considered in determining the
10 number of lay delegates which a local church body may send to meetings
11 of the General Conference of the Fellowship or District Conferences.

12 C. DISCIPLINE: The UFMCC cannot condone disloyalty or unbe-
13 coming conduct on the part of any of its members and friends; therefore, the
14 Board of Directors/local church administrative body of the church is
15 empowered to remove by majority vote any member or friend from the rolls
16 of the church or take such appropriate disciplinary action as it deems
17 necessary. Upon written request of the member or friend, the action of the
18 Board of Directors/local church administrative body may be subject to
19 review by vote of the congregation at its next regular business meeting or
20 at a special meeting which may be called and must be in accordance with
21 the provisions of the Bylaws of the Fellowship and of the local church. Until
22 the vote on appeal, the disciplined member will retain membership, or a
23 disciplined friend will retain "friend" status.

24 ARTICLE VIII 25 CHURCH SERVICES

26 A. Each local church body shall hold services of public worship every
27 Sunday. Other worship services may be held as determined by the Pastor
28 with the approval of the local Board of Directors/local church administra-
29 tive body. In regard to the worship services of local church bodies, the
30 Sacrament of Holy Communion shall be offered each Sunday as well as at
31 other worship services at the discretion of the Pastor. Holy Baptism may
32 be administered at any appropriate service of the local church body - or at
33 any other time - at the Pastor's discretion.

34 ARTICLE IX 35 CHURCH MEETINGS

36 A. FELLOWSHIP: For the purpose of the transaction of business the
37 UFMCC will hold a Biennial General Conference beginning in 1977. A
38 World Jubilee will be held in conjunction with General Conference for the
39 purpose of worship, celebration, education and training. Meetings of
40 regional/country groups will be held as part of the Jubilee. The time and
41 place of the World Jubilee/General Conference will be announced at the

1 previous World Jubilee/General Conference. Notice must be given in
2 writing to all Church bodies ninety (90) days prior to the upcoming General
3 Conference. This General Conference of the UFMCC is that body consisting
4 of credentialed clergy (active, on sabbatical, and retired) Elders, District
5 Coordinators, lay delegates, and the Pastor of each chartered and commis-
6 sioned Church. The transaction of all business except procedural matters
7 must be approved by a separate majority vote of the votes carried by lay
8 delegates, Interim Pastoral Leaders, lay Elders, lay District Coordinators
9 and lay Coordinators of Global Outreach Area and the chair of the
10 Commission on the Laity; and a separate majority vote of the credentialed
11 clergy. A quorum shall consist of the number of lay people required to
12 achieve fifty-five percent (55%) of the total number of lay people eligible to
13 vote at General Conference from within the UFMCC (inclusive of lay
14 Elders, lay District Coordinators, and Interim Pastoral Leaders), and fifty-
15 five percent (55%) of the credentialed clergy of the UFMCC eligible to vote.
16 No proxy and/or absentee ballots shall be allowed in any business meeting
17 of this Fellowship, except where specifically provided for in these Bylaws.
18 All special General Conferences of the UFMCC can be called by a petition
19 submitted to the Board of Elders by fifty percent (50%) of all those persons
20 eligible to vote at General Conference. Initiation of this petition may be by
21 either clergy or laity. Such special conferences shall be governed by the
22 same rules as those pertaining to the General Conference with the
23 exception that written notice must be sent to all credentialed clergy and to
24 all voting church bodies at least thirty (30) days prior to the special
25 conference. The nature and purpose of special conferences must be stated
26 in the petition and notices and must be written into the agenda of the
27 special conference.

28 **B. DISTRICTS:** Between World Jubilee/General Conferences, Dis-
29 trict Conferences must be held at least once, but no more than twice, yearly.
30 A District Conference is that legislative meeting of all church bodies within
31 the boundaries of the District. The boundaries of the District are estab-
32 lished by the Board of Elders. Thirty (30) days written notice of any District
33 Conference must be sent to all church bodies within the District. Voting
34 rights at these conferences shall be determined in the same manner as for
35 the General Conference unless additional voting rights are granted by the
36 District Conference. A District Conference quorum shall consist of fifty-
37 five (55%) percent of all UFMCC credentialed clergy eligible to vote and
38 fifty-five (55%) percent of all laity eligible to vote at a District Conference
39 as per Article IX.A. Special conferences of the various Districts of the
40 UFMCC can be called by petition submitted to the District Coordinator by
41 fifty percent (50%) of the credentialed clergy within the District eligible to
42 vote at a District Conference and by fifty percent (50%) of the lay people
within the District eligible to vote at a District Conference. The process
may be initiated by either the clergy or the laity. Such special conferences
shall be governed by the same rules as those pertaining to the regularly

1 scheduled District Conferences. The nature and purpose of special confer-
2 ences must be stated in the petition and notices and the agenda must be
3 limited to the purpose. Special conferences may also be called at the
4 District level or by other means as provided for in the District's Bylaws or
5 Standard Operating Procedures.

6 C. LOCAL: Each local church body of the Universal Fellowship of
7 Metropolitan Community Churches must hold an annual congregational
8 business meeting, preferably during the same month each year. In order
9 to transact business no less than twenty percent (20%) of the members in
10 good standing must be present. Congregations of 250 or more members in
11 good standing may elect the option of a percentage of less than 20% but no
12 less than 10% to replace the twenty percent figure in the previous sentence.
13 Two weeks notice must be given in writing to all members.

14 All special meetings of local church bodies can be called by a petition
15 submitted to the Moderator or other Officer of the Board of Directors/local
16 church administrative body. This petition must be signed by twenty-five
17 percent (25%) of the members listed on the roll of members in good standing
18 of the local body. Congregations of 250 or more members in good standing
19 may elect the option of a percentage of less than 25% but no less than 15%
20 to replace the 25% figure in the previous sentence. The required minimum
21 percentage of signatures of members in good standing may be adjusted by
22 the General Council when the laws of a local jurisdiction require a variance.
23 Such special meetings shall be governed by the same rules as those
24 pertaining to the congregational meeting. The nature and purpose of the
25 special meeting must be stated in the petition and notices and must be
26 written into the agenda of the special meeting. Special meetings of the local
27 church body may be called by other means as provided for in the local
28 Bylaws.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

ARTICLE X CHURCH FINANCES

A.. The UFMCC adopts and teaches tithing as the scripturally
affirmed means of supporting the Church and its ministries, and as the
expression of good stewardship of time, skills, and money by individuals
and church bodies. Therefore, it shall be the responsibility of both the
clergy and the lay leadership of local churches to plan and implement
programs of stewardship both to help persons grow in the grace of giving
and to fund the Church's ministries. An offering shall be received at each
service of public worship in the local church, District Conference, and
World Jubilee.

B. The Board of Directors/local church administrative body shall
report all Church receipts each month to the UFMCC and the District, and
with that report shall remit five percent (5%) of the funds reported to the
District and ten percent (10%) of the funds reported to the UFMCC. Only

1 bequests, building funds, or funds to meet the immediate needs of persons
2 in distress or funds raised or designated for mandated UFMCC/District
3 Conferences shall be omitted in calculating the amount due the Fellowship
4 and District. Funds to meet the immediate needs of persons in distress
5 shall be to cover direct services, i.e., services without which the recipient
6 would be destitute or in personal danger, but is not limited to emergency
7 food, clothing and shelter. The administrative costs of direct services
8 predicated upon ministries operating within the existing ministry struc-
9 ture of the local church, are borne by the local church through its titheable
10 income. Building fund is a fund (preferably in a separate bank account from
11 other church monies) designated for the current or future construction or
12 purchase of a church facility, which may or may not include meeting space,
13 office space (s), kitchen facilities, classroom space, and non-revenue
14 parking facilities in addition to the primary structure provided for wor-
15 ship. The building fund includes capital expenditures and may include the
16 purchase of furniture and equipment for the space constructed or pur-
17 chased, as well as any renovation costs. Monies, in addition to mortgage
18 payments, raised to be applied to reduce the principal on a building loan
19 are considered building fund. Operational costs such as mortgage interest
20 payments (after the time the building is occupied by the congregation), rent
21 payments, utilities and minor equipment are not included under the
22 definition of "building fund". Building fund monies, including interest, are
23 directed toward the purposes outlined above, and may not be transferred
24 permanently or long-term into other Church accounts unless the assess-
25 ments stated in UFMCC Bylaws are remitted to the appropriate bodies. A
26 gift of money given in lieu of goods in kind to a Church outside of the United
27 States would not be included in funds to be reported. Report and remit-
28 tance are due on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the
29 month being reported.

30 Wherever possible and desirable as determined by the General Council,
31 Churches in Districts outside the United States shall send their ten
32 percent (10%) tithe directly to the UFMCC headquarters. However the
33 General Council may choose, in certain circumstances, to authorize special
34 accounts in other nations to hold in trust the ten percent (10%) UFMCC
35 tithe within that nation. The General Council upon the recommendation of
36 the District Coordinator will name the signators on said accounts and will
37 approve a budget for use of those monies for UFMCC purposes and
38 programs within the respective nation. Of the funds held in trust in the
39 respective nation, a mutually agreed upon amount will be billed annually
40 to Fellowship Headquarters to contribute toward denominational opera-
41 tions. Also, any funds not expended for Fellowship purposes in programs
42 in respective nations shall, at the end of each biennium, be remitted to
UFMCC headquarters. For each such remittance, UFMCC fellowship
offices shall provide documentation satisfactory to national/regional gov-
ernment authorities in the sending countries.

C. Each Board of Directors/local church administrative body in the USA shall report quarterly the membership figures for each month within every quarter and shall remit the Board of Pensions assessment as set by General Conference. Report and remittance are due to the Board of Pensions on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the quarter reported.

D. Any bank or financial account in the name of any church body, District, or of the UFMCC, or of any subordinate group or body, must require two signatures for withdrawals, one of which must be that of an officer elected or a person appointed under UFMCC Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI RESERVATION OF POWERS

A. All powers not delegated by these Bylaws are reserved to the local church bodies.

ARTICLE XII ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

A. ADOPTION: These Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and shall become binding upon all members and church bodies within the Fellowship.

B. AMENDMENTS: These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any duly convened meeting of the General Conference according to the procedures adopted by the General Conference. Such amendments or repeals as presented by the Bylaws Committee can only be effective if two-thirds (2/3) of the duly authorized lay delegates and two-thirds (2/3) of the duly authorized clergy attending vote in favor of such amendments or repeals.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL LAWS: If UFMCC Bylaws are inconsistent with laws of any nation or other jurisdiction in which a local church body or a District is organized, the General Council may allow the Bylaws or other organizational documents to contain variances with these Bylaws to facilitate compliance of the local church body with such laws.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAWS PROPOSALS

Addendum 1

Each Bylaws proposal submitted to the Bylaws Committee shall be on separate sheet(s) of paper.

All Bylaws proposals submitted to the bylaws Committee must be sponsored by the Board of Elders, General Council or a minimum of 33% of the District Conferences. Once the Bylaws proposal is submitted to the Bylaws Committee, the Bylaws proposal accompanied by a written opinion from the General Council will be placed on the agenda of the next General Conference.

Per General Council action, all Bylaws change proposals must be submitted on the "Standard Bylaws Proposal Submission Form". This form may be obtained from the UFMCC Headquarters Office.

All Bylaws proposals meeting the above requirements can be submitted to:

Chairperson/Bylaws Committee
c/o UFMCC
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029 USA

JUDICIARY PROCESS

[ADDENDUM 2]

OLD JUDICIARY PROCESS: [EFFECTIVE: JANUARY-JUNE, 1996]

I. APPOINTMENT OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND CHAIR:

The Board of Elders shall appoint a committee of three persons plus one alternate to serve staggered three year terms as the Judiciary Committee. One of these persons shall be designated as the Chair. In appointing these persons the Elders should seek persons who are members in good standing of UFMCC, mature in judgement, and capable of impartiality. The recommended composition of the committee would be two clergy and one lay-person. In addition the committee should be a reflection of UFMCC's commitment to diversity.

Each member of the Judiciary Committee will be asked to:

1. Familiarize themselves with the UFMCC Judicial process;
2. Educate themselves on issues such as professional ethics and conduct;
3. Provide a written report to the C.C.C.C. concerning the effectiveness of the current judicial process;
4. Render impartial and fair decisions; and
5. Remove themselves from any procedure in which a conflict of interest may exist.

II. INITIATION OF CHARGES:

Charges must be initiated in a formal, written, and notarized statement submitted to either the Board of Elders, the CCCC, or the Chair of the Judiciary Committee. This statement must include specific charges of the clergyperson's disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty.

III. INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES:

When charges are brought against a member of the clergy of the UFMCC the following shall happen immediately:

1. A copy of the charges and any documentation shall be sent to the Convener/Chair of the Judiciary Committee.
2. The C.C.C.C. chair shall also be immediately informed.
3. The accused shall receive a copy of the charges and any documentation.
4. The Clerk of the Board of Elders shall contact both parties to determine if arbitration is an option to the Judiciary process.

Upon receipt of the charges the Chair of the Judiciary Committee may designate two persons to investigate the credibility of the charges with deliberate expediency. If both investigators find that the charges have

substance the Judiciary Committee shall convene a hearing within forty-five (45) days of the accused receipt of a copy of the final charges. The Judiciary Committee shall request that the C.C.C.C. place the clergyperson on inactive status pending the outcome of the hearing. The accused person shall cease to function as a clergyperson until a judgement is received. They shall continue to receive all compensation, insurance and other financial benefits during this time.

IV. THE HEARING:

If the investigators report that the charges can be substantiated, the hearing itself shall be conducted according to the following guidelines:

1. The location of the hearing shall be determined by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee with respect to the convenience of all parties involved.
2. It shall take place within forty-five (45) days of the accused receipt of a final copy of the charges.
3. The investigators shall provide a complete report of all their findings to the Judiciary Committee and shall make an oral report at the time of the hearing. They shall be present throughout the hearing and may be questioned by the Committee as they seek to verify all the facts.
4. Both the parties involved in bringing the complaint shall be permitted representation by an advocate who must be a member in good standing of UFMCC.
5. Both parties shall be permitted to call witnesses, and examine all evidence. Only first-hand information is acceptable.
6. A complete and accurate record of the proceedings shall be kept.
7. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the hearing the Judicial Committee shall render their decision.
8. Anything less than a unanimous decision shall result in a finding of not guilty. The actual deliberation and vote shall remain confidential.
9. Both parties shall be informed of the decision immediately after it has been reached. Once both parties have been reached the Moderator of the Board of Elders and the C.C.C.C. shall be informed.
10. A copy of the decision shall be given to both the person charged and the person bringing the charges within twenty four (24) hours when possible.
11. Either party may appeal the decision. Notice of the intention to appeal must be given within seven (7) days.
12. In the event that the accused is found not to be guilty of the charges the Judiciary Committee shall publicize their findings through appropriate denominational channels.
13. In the event that the charges are found to be valid the Judiciary Committee will determine a recommended penalty and inform the C.C.C.C. who shall within seven (7) days invoke the penalty.

V. APPEAL:

Upon receipt of a request for appeal the Chair of the Judiciary Committee shall inform the C.C.C.C., who shall hear the appeal. In the event that the charges were brought to the Judiciary Committee through the C.C.C.C. three members of the Board of Elders selected by the Moderator will consider the appeal. In either case this appeal shall be considered final.

VI. COSTS OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS:

The costs of the judicial process shall be the responsibility of the UFMCC. The costs of bringing charges shall be borne by the person who brought the charges. The costs for defense shall be the responsibility of the person against whom the charges were brought. However, the UFMCC reserves the right to seek restitution for expenses should the charges be found frivolous or malicious.

If either party is financially unable to bear the costs of the process an appeal should be made to the UFMCC Treasurer who with the Moderator and Clerk will make a disposition.

NEW JUDICIARY PROCESS: [EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 1996]

The Judicial process begins when charges are brought as defined in the Bylaws (Article IV, paragraph B.1.(d).).

I. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

For each District, the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) in consultation with the District Coordinator will appoint a Judiciary Representative to serve a three year term. This person must be an ordained UFMCC clergyperson. This appointment must be approved by the District Committee. Each time the Representative receives charges she/he will appoint two additional persons to form a Judiciary Committee. These persons must be members in good standing of UFMCC. In the event that the Representative is unable to serve or has a conflict of interest, the BOM will appoint an alternate Representative.

II. COMPLAINTS/CHARGES:

A. COMPLAINTS: A distinction should be made between complaints and charges. Any church official (Clergy, Lay Delegate, Board of Directors, District Officers, etc.) who receives a complaint of alleged misconduct by a UFMCC clergyperson shall report the complaint to the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) within 24 hours. A preliminary investigation will be conducted by a member of the BOM (designated by the Chair) within 72 hours. Their report will be forwarded to the Chair of the BOM. If the Chair of the BOM determines that the complaint is not substantiated,

a record of the findings will be placed in the clergyperson's file to identify possible patterns of misconduct. The clergyperson, the person making the complaint, the District Coordinator/Administrator of Global Outreach, the Moderator of the Board of Elders, and the Director of Clergy Development shall be kept fully informed throughout the Judiciary process.

B. CHARGES: If the Chair of the BOM determines that the complaint has been substantiated, within 24 hours of receiving the report of the investigator, she/he shall submit charges and a complete record of her/his findings to the Judiciary Representative. The clergyperson charged and the affected church/agency will be immediately notified by the Chair of the BOM sending them a copy of the charges. Throughout the process, all parties will be kept fully informed concerning the proceedings and the resolution. The clergyperson may be placed on inactive status by the BOM and she/he shall cease to function as a clergyperson until a final judgement is reached. The clergyperson charged must be placed on inactive status immediately if the allegations indicate the possibility of injury to persons or property. The clergyperson shall continue to receive all compensation, insurance and other financial benefits until a final judgement is reached.

III. THE HEARING:

The Judiciary Representative will convene a hearing within 45 days from the date of receiving the charges. Further investigation may be conducted during this interval. Professional investigators may be used if deemed necessary by the Judiciary Representative. The hearing shall be conducted according to the following guidelines:

- A. The location of the hearing shall be in the district which the charges are brought against a clergyperson.
- B. Both the person bringing the charges and the person being charged shall be permitted to have an advocate present at the hearing. Advocates are not legal counsel but are present to provide support and may speak on behalf of the person they represent.
- C. Prior to commencement of the hearing, both parties shall have the opportunity to examine all documentation submitted. Both parties may present and have an opportunity to question witnesses. Only first-hand information is acceptable.
- D. A complete and accurate record of the proceedings shall be kept.
- E. Within 24 hours of the conclusion of the hearing the Judiciary Committee shall inform both parties in writing of their decision.
- F. A unanimous decision is required in order to determine that the charges are valid.

IV. RESOLUTION:

Following a unanimous decision of the Judiciary Committee, the following actions shall be taken:

- A. The Chair of the BOM shall be informed of the Judiciary Committee's decision. In the event that the charges have been substantiated the Judiciary Committee shall determine the penalty and inform the BOM who shall invoke that penalty immediately.
- B. The Judiciary Committee should appropriately publicize the results of the hearing. Upon conclusion of the hearing and appeals process, the same Boards of Directors should be immediately provided with a brief written statement approved by legal counsel which can be read only to members of the congregation(s) and with a more detailed confidential summary of the decision pursuant to the provisions of a confidentiality agreement which would be available only to Board of Directors.
- C. Records of the hearing and all evidence will be retained by the BOM and a copy of the charges and final decision will be placed in the clergyperson's file.
- D. Appropriate pastoral care should be offered to all parties involved.

V. APPEAL PROCESS:

Either the person bringing the charges or the person charged may appeal the decision of the Judiciary Committee. Appeals must be made to the Chair of the BOM within seven days. Three impartial members of the BOM shall be selected by the Chair to hear the appeal. Their decision must be determined within seven days and their judgement shall be final. Copies of their decision will be sent to the person bringing the charges, the person charged, and a copy placed in the file of the person charged.

VI. COSTS OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS:

The costs of the judicial process shall be the responsibility of the District. The costs of bringing charges shall be borne by the person who brought the charges. The costs for defense shall be the responsibility of the person against whom the charges were brought. However, the District reserves the right to seek restitution for expenses should the charges be found frivolous or malicious.

If either party is financially unable to bear the costs of the process a request for assistance may be made to the District Treasurer who with the District Coordinator/Administrator of Global Outreach will make a decision.

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Abbreviations

Rev. = UFMCC clergy
Rev'd = transfer clergy

Meeting location in congregation listings used only if different from mailing address.

The following abbreviations are used in this directory these countries states/provinces/districts:

Australia:

NSW New South Wales
QLD Queensland
SA South Australia
VIC Victoria

Canada:

AL Alberta
BC British Columbia
MB Manitoba
NS Nova Scotia
ON Ontario

Mexico:

DF Distrito Federal

United States:

AL Alabama
AK Alaska
AZ Arizona
AR Arkansas
CA California
CO Colorado
CT Connecticut
DC Dist. of Columbia
DE Delaware
FL Florida
GA Georgia
HI Hawaii
ID Idaho
IL Illinois
IN Indiana
IA Iowa
KS Kansas
KY Kentucky
LA Louisiana
ME Maine
MD Maryland
MA Massachusetts
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MS Mississippi
MO Missouri

MT Montana
NE Nebraska
NV Nevada
NH New Hampshire
NJ New Jersey
NM New Mexico
NY New York
NC North Carolina
ND North Dakota
OH Ohio
OK Oklahoma
OR Oregon
PA Pennsylvania
RI Rhode Island
SC South Carolina
SD South Dakota
TN Tennessee
TX Texas
UT Utah
VA Virginia
VT Vermont
WA Washington
WV West Virginia
WI Wisconsin
WY Wyoming

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Margaret Mahlman, Controller Ext. 216

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Elsa S. Martinez, Marketing/Administrative Assistant Ext. 226

Nathan Meckley, Executive Associate Ext. 214

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Erik Topp, Receptionist Ext. 210

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Second Vice Moderator
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Member
Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein
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8704 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Please contact fellowship office for
phone and fax.



Elder Emeritus
Rev. Elder John Hose
Deceased

DISTRICTS DIRECTORY OF UFMCC DISTRICTS DISTRICTS DISTRICTS DISTRICTS

AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT

Area: Australia

District Coordinator: Rev. Greg Smith
PO Box 1237, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Int-61-2-9332-2457 (also fax)

Interim Assistant District Coordinator:

Rev. Gary Walker
PO Box 78, Alexandria NSW 2015
Int-61-2-9550-3681

Interim District Clerk: Mr. Bruce Gray
PO Box 1237, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Int-61-2-9357-4513

District Treasurer: Mr. Rod Phillips
PO Box 648, Adelaide SA 5051
Int-61-8-8278-2215

Lay Representative: Mr. Adrian Buganey
PO Box 282, Annerley QLD 4103
Int-61-7-3891-2164

Alternate District Lay Representative:

Ms. Deirdre Dowsett
2/115 Laurel Ave., Lismore NSW 2480
Int-61-66-22-2560

Clergy FFO Representative: Rev. Ivor Holmans
PO Box 282, Annerley QLD 4103
Int-61-7-3345-1172

Alternate Clergy FFO Representative:

Rev. Robert Clark
23/54-64 Bondi Rd., Bondi Junction NSW 2022
Int-61-2-9387-8371

Lay FFO Representative: Mr. Adrian Buganey
PO Box 282, Annerley QLD 4103
Int-61-7-3891-2164

Clergy Person, Elders Nominating Committee:

Rev. Cliff Connors
15 Honor St., Ermington NSW 2049
Int-61-2-9638-3298

Lay Person, Elders Nominating Committee:

Ms. Norma Weaver
1/5 Sadler Crescent, Petersham NSW 2049
Int-61-2-9564-6325

Liaison with the Women's Secretariat:

Rev. Vera Bourne
Green-Winter Farm, Dunoon Rd.
Dorroughby NSW 2480
Int-61-66-895-105

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

CANADA



EASTERN CANADIAN DISTRICT

District de l'est du Canada
(Eglises Communautaires Métropolitaines (ECM))

Area: New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec

District Coordinator: Rev. Marcie Wexler
33 Holly St. #1117, Toronto ON M4S 2G8
416-487-8429 Fax 416-932-1836

Email mwexler@trends.ca

Assistant District Coordinator:

Ms. Marilyn Lamb
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Email an728@ccn.cs.dal.ca

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416-406-6229 x107

District Treasurer: Mr. Geoff Robbins
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613-739-0718

Lay Representative: Mr. Brian Gazley
99 Alton Ave., Toronto ON M4L 2M3
416-466-6338

Clergy Representative: Rev. Marcia Perryman
84 Eccles St. N., Barrie ON L4N 1Y4
705-725-0170

Lay FFO Representative: Ms. Kelly Austin
1016-520 Wellington St., London ON N6A3R2
519-434-2287

BOM Chair: Rev. Virginia Reinecker
Box 22-13, 975 Brookdale Ave.
Cornwall ON K6J5W3
613-930-9286

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Hong Tan

EUROPE



EUROPEAN DISTRICT

Area: Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom

District Coordinator: Rev. Roy Beaney
62 Brockenhurst Way, London
United Kingdom SW16 4UD
Int-44-181-764-8369

Assistant District Coordinator:
Ms. Catherine Chemarin
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Int-33-140-36-0802

District Clerk: Mr. Nigel J. Utting
c/o BM MCC, London United Kingdom WC1N 3XX
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District Treasurer: Mr. Ken Rogers
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United Kingdom WV10 0QX
Int-44-902-452-332

Lay Representative: Ms. Beryl Quennell
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United Kingdom S040 9JG
Int-44-1703-870120
Email Beryl@beeq.demon.co.uk

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United Kingdom TS202QQ
Int-44-642-533267

FFO Representative: Rev. Doreen Shambrook
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United Kingdom DA51EY
Int-44-181-304-2374

Ethnic Minorities Min. Representative:
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c/o BM MCC London, London
United Kingdom WC1N 3XX
Int-44-181-670-2619

BOM Vice Chair: Rev. Neil Thomas
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Pokesdown United Kingdom BH14HL

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United Kingdom DA51EY
Int-44-181-304-2374

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United Kingdom BH88NS
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Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

UNITED STATES



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District Treasurer: Mr. Ken McLaughlin
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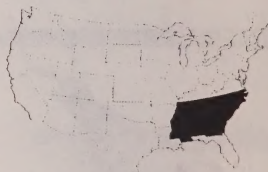
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Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein



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Atlanta GA 30329

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FFO Lay Representative: Ms. Dayna Foster
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BOM Member: Rev. Marge Ragona
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Winston-Salem NC 27107

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MDISC Representative: Rev. La Paula Turner
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Memphis TN 38174

WIND Chair: Mr. Stan Kimer
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Raleigh NC 27650-5626

Women's Secretariat Co-Chairs:
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4019 Teakwood Dr., Charlotte NC 28217
704-529-5957
Ms. Mary Ellen Dowdy
5147 Golfbrook Ct., Stone Mountain GA 30088
707-879-6630

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Don Eastman



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Area: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

District Coordinator: Rev. Arlene Ackerman
PO Box 276, Landisville PA 17538
717-898-3713 Fax 717-898-3714

Email AJoy1@aol.com

Assistant District Coordinator:

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1231 N J Ave. NW, Washington DC 20001
202-638-1409

Email DTSHELL@aol.com

District Clerk: Ms. Belva Boone
9705 Ashby Rd., Fairfax VA 22031
703-273-9288

Email Triddum@aol.com

District Treasurer: Mr. Edwin Yates, PO Box 522
Leola, PA 17540-0522
717-656-0994

Email yatesmcc.redrose.net

Clergy Rep:

Lay Rep: Ms. Judy Rupert
331 Smyser St., York PA 17404
717-854-3187

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5616 Raleigh Rd., Charlottesville VA 22903
Mr. Jeff Pickard, 9308 Battle St.
Manassas VA 22110

Rev. Roberta Dunn, 4836 Ellsworth Ave.
Pittsburgh PA 15213

Rev. David Smith, 3401 Old York Rd.
Baltimore MD 21218

Rev. Harry Stock, 912 Third St. NW
Washington DC 20001

Assistant Lay Representative: Ms. Belva Boone
9705 Ashby Rd., Fairfax VA 22031
703-273-9288

MDISC Representative: Ms. Belva Boone
9705 Ashby Rd., Fairfax VA 22031
703-273-9288

WIND Representative:

Mr. JB Blankenship-Coombs
452 Center St., Morgantown WV 26505
304-292-4819

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USA MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT *Continued*

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Pittsburgh PA 15213
412-683-2994

BOM Vice Chair: Rev. Ken Ehrke
PO Box 127, Boyds MD 20811-0127
301-601-9112

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein



MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS DISTRICT

Area: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Illinois (Quincy only), Western Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory)

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913-232-8713

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District Liaison for Policy & Procedure:
Mr. David Sorey
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303-777-5036

Lay FFO Representative:

Clergy FFO Representative:

Women's Secretariat Representative:

BOM Chair: Rev. Celena Duncan
8804 W. 70 Terr., Merriam KS 66204
913-362-4565

BOM Alternate Chair: Rev. Shelly Hamilton
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Wichita KS 67211

BOM Member: Rev. Jan Kross
PO Box 10087, Kansas City MO 64171
816-931-0750

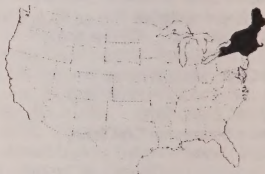
BOM Member: Rev. Paul Evans
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BOM Member: Rev. Elder Charles Arehart
RR #2 Box 365-A, Sunrise Beach MO 65079
314-374-6479

BOM Member: Rev. Roy Lenington
PO Box 8291, Omaha NE 68108
402-345-3548

Email Revmarkw@aol.com

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Hong Tan



NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Area: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

District Coordinator: Rev. Sheila Rawls
340 North St., Burlington VT 05401
802-865-3483 Fax 802-865-3483
Email MCCNED@aol.com

Assistant District Coordinator:

Ms. Barb Crabtree
1514 Rush Scottsville Rd., Rush NY 14543
716-533-9106
Email: Debbarb@aol.com

District Clerk: Ms. Terry Keister
40 Sanford St., Rochester NY 14620
716-271-1796
Email TKeis@aol.com

District Treasurer: Mr. Frank Moreno
223 Raritan Road, Linden NJ 07036
908-486-6860

Lay Advocate: Mr. Danny Gonzalez
55 West End Ave. #16C, NY NY 10023
212-265-5409
Email DannyinNYC@aol.com

Clergy Advocate: Rev. Jill Farnham
40 Duncan Dr., Latham NY 12110
518-785-7941
Email MCCHV@aol.com

MDISC Representative: Ms. Gloria Moy
42-44 Mulberry St. #2A, NY NY 10013
212-233-7862

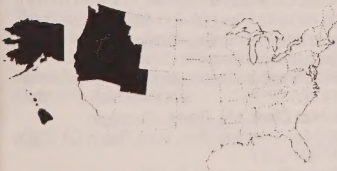
Women's Secretariat Representative:
Ms. Debbie Krusmark
1514 Rush Scottsville Rd., Rush NY 14543
716-533-9106
Email Debbarb@aol.com

FFO Lay Representative: Mr. Rosendo Coello
4455 Broadway #36, NY NY 10040
212-567-4859

BOM Chair: Rev. Virginia Reinecker
Box 40182, 1910 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ON
K1G5K9 Canada
613-736-1643

BOM Vice Chair: Rev. Karha Us
40 Duncan Dr., Latham NY 12110
518-785-7941

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner



NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Area: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Northern California, Northern Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington

District Coordinator: Rev. Janet Suess-Pierce
PO Box 1678, Richland WA 99352-0059
360-695-1480

Assistant District Coordinator: (Region A)
Rev. Sue Stackhouse
PO Box 4389, Bellingham WA 98227
360-398-7280

Assistant District Coordinator: (Region B)
Rev. Leslie Addison
1614 Webster Apt 104, Oakland CA 94612
510-763-8484

District Clerk: Ms. Beth Downey
885 1/2 Fulton St., San Francisco CA 94117
415-292-2384

District Treasurer: Ms. Sue Price
c/o Sacred Light of Christ MCC
PO Box 11321, Salt Lake City UT 84147-0321
801-483-2650

Clergy Representative: Rev. Cheri Starchman
1700 Summit Ave. #301, Seattle WA 98122
206-298-8074

Lay Representative: Mr. Mel Johnson
1310 Clayton St. #12, San Francisco CA 94114
415-553-5977

Alternate Clergy Representative:
Rev. Cindy Solomon
c/o Sacred Light of Christ MCC
PO Box 11321, Salt Lake City UT 84147-0321
801-967-2361

Alternate Lay Representative:
Ms. Pat MacAodha
2804 NE 42nd Ave., Portland OR 97213
503-282-8615

BOM Chair: Rev. Ann Hulse
PO Box 4355, Bellingham WA 98227
360-398-7280

Director of Publicity: Mr. Ron Rasmussen
4701 NE 72nd Ave. #C48
Vancouver WA 98661-3602
360-896-9394

Liaison Elder: Elder Larry Rodriguez



SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Area: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

District Coordinator: Rev. Eleanor Nealy
PO Box 7441, Houston TX 77248-7441
713-869-8817 Fax 713-869-7769

Assistant District Coordinator:
District Clerk: Dr. Jeffrey Nythch
PO Box 2385, Houston TX 77252-2385
713-293-0607

DISTRICTSDISTRICTS

USA SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT *Continued*

District Treasurer: Mr. Tom Merrill
10762 Oakline Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70809
504-296-5251

Lay Representative: Mr. Len Shelton
9218 Rangely Dr., Houston TX 77055
713-464-4050

At-Large District Committee Members:

Ms. Sylvia Hodgins
7115 Haverford, Dallas TX 75214
214-348-1700
Rev. Kaye Lee
3628 W. Park Pl., Oklahoma City OK 73107
405-942-2822
Ms. Jean Strickland, RR1 Box 48PK
Jewett TX 75846
903-626-5663

Rev. Irene Travis, c/o Cathedral of Hope MCC
PO Box 35466, Dallas TX 75235
214-351-1901

BOM Chair: Rev. Kenneth Martin
1117 Red River, Austin TX 78701
512-708-8002

BOM Vice Chair: Rev. Janet Parker
PO Box 667032, Houston TX 77266
713-528-6756

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson



SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Area: Florida

District Coordinator: Rev. Judy Davenport
PO Box 12768, St. Petersburg FL 33733-2768
813-865-0863; 813-864-4567
Fax 813-865-0963
Email SEDUFMCC@aol.com

Assistant District Coordinator:

Rev. Teena Carpenter
3150 5th Ave. N, St. Petersburg FL 33713
813-323-5857

District Clerk: Mr. Andy Cordero
300 S. Florida Ave. #600 D
Tarpon Springs FL 34689
813-934-0203

District Treasurer: Ms. Barbara A. Dubberly
2979 Green St., Jacksonville FL 32205
904-389-6821

Lay Representative: Mr. Ron Bush
PO Box 2283, Orlando FL 32802
407-260-9736

Clergy Representative:

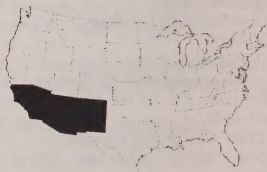
Lay FFO Representative: Mr. Jak Warburton
812 South Street #1, Key West FL 33040
305-294-8912

Clergy FFO Representative: Rev. Julia Seward
1215 Petronia St., Key West FL 33040
305-294-8912

Women's Secretariat:

BOM Chair: Rev. Renne Shawver
PO Box 6779, Ft. Myers FL 33911-6779
941-278-5181

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Don Eastman



SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Area: Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California, Southern Nevada

District Coordinator: Rev. Don Pederson
3600 South Harbor Blvd. No. 183
Oxnard CA 93035-4136
805-483-5424 Fax 805-483-5357

Assistant District Coordinator:

Ms. Jude Litzenberger
9862 Jamacha Blvd., Spring Valley CA 91977
619-465-9238

District Clerk: Ms. Theresa Swanigan
2851 San Francisco Ave., Long Beach CA 90806
310-427-2287

District Treasurer: Mr. Ron Freeny
917 Cagua NE, Albuquerque NM 87108
505-255-6750

Clergy Representative: Rev. Pat Leffler
720 N. Spurgeon St., Santa Ana CA 92701
714-835-0722

Lay Representative: Ms. Julie Tizard
109 N. 133rd St., Chandler AZ 85225
602-899-0410

Clergy Representative: Rev. Barbara Haynes
4523 Lexington Ave., Los Angeles CA 90029
213-662-9538

Lay Representative: Ms. Judy Boots Galegor
5418 N. Briercree Ave., Lakewood CA 90713
310-804-4164

Clergy FFO Representative:
Rev. Houston Burnside, Jr.
PO Box 474, Escondido CA 92033
619-740-5931

Lay FFO Representative: Ms. Juana Majel
4415 38th St. #4, San Diego CA 92116
619-584-4611 Fax 619-584-1784

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328 E. Balboa Blvd. #B, Newport Beach CA 92661

BOM Chair: Rev. Gina Chapman
10820 Beverly Blvd., A5-154, Whittier CA 90601
310-696-6213

Liaison Elder: Elder Larry Rodriguez

GLOBAL OUTREACH



Administrator: Rev. Judy Dahl
c/o UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. #304
Los Angeles CA 90029
213-464-5100 ext. 228
Email JDahl2Go@aol.com

Interim Board of Global Outreach:
The Board of Elders

**For information about countries where
UFMCC has contact, but presently no desig-
nated Churches, please contact the Global
Outreach Administrator.**

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Area Coordinator: Rev. Michael Horn
PO Box 30964, Auckland NZ
Int-64-9-629-0927

Area Treasurer: Mr. Richard Warnock
26 Beatty Parade, Surfdale, Waiheke
Auckland 1240 NZ
Int-64-9-372-6074

Area Clerk: Mr. Dennis Pease
1/27A Campbell Rd, Royal Oak
Auckland 1006 NZ
Int-64-9-636-8086

NIGERIA

Area Coordinator: Rev. Sylvanus Maduka
PO Box 478, Okigwe, Imo State, Nigeria

LATIN AMERICAN MINISTRY

Area Coordinator: Rev. Jorge Sosa
APDO Postal #7-1423
Mexico City DF 06700, Mexico
Int-525-105-7048 (cellular phone)

Assistant Coordinator: Rev. Tomas Garcia
Plan de Guadalupe 3366
Fraccionamiento Revolucion, Tlaquepaque
Jalisco, Mexico

Treasurer: Sr. Eduardo Cruz
c/o ICM Renovacion, Apdo Postal #7-1423
Mexico DF 06700, Mexico

Secretary: Mr. Francisco "Paco" Galvan
c/o ICM Renovacion, Apdo Postal #7-1423
Mexico DF 06700, Mexico

COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES DIRECTORY OF COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES

2523-A Bomar Ave. Jamist@aol.com
 Dallas, Tx 75235
 214-350-1942
 Fax 214-350-5089

SAMARITAN COLLEGE CONSORTIUM

Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies

Mail: PO Box 688, Lewisville TX 75067
 Location: 250 North Mill St. #6
 Lewisville TX 75057
 214-221-7749 Fax 214-221-7345
 Rev. Sandra Robinson, President
 Rev. Mona West, Dean
 Ms. Rebecca Ruth Everett, Administrative Assistant

Australian Samaritan Education

15 Honor Street, Ermington NSW 2115
 Rev. Cliff Connors, Dean
 Int-61-2-9638-3298

Samaritan Studies in New Zealand

PO Box 13468, Christchurch NZ
 Rev'd Andrew Donaldson, Director

Samaritan College in Europe

c/o Ms. C. Messenger
 42 Glanbrydan Ave.
 Swansea SA2
 OHX West Glamorgan Wales
 United Kingdom
 Int-44-1792-298-327

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 713-953-1383

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 Int-44-1273-561266

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 818-362-0689

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 11143 70th Ave., Edmonton AB T6H 2G9 Canada
 403-436-8774
 Email Charles.Bidwell@UAlberta.Ca

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Mr. Bernard Barbour, Executive Director
 1744 Michigan St., Houston TX 77006-1722
 713-526-3864 Fax 713-680-7712

Mr. Ramon D. Flores
 PO Box 161016, San Diego CA 92176
 619-281-3548

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446 West 36th St., NY NY 10018
212-629-7440

Rev. Steve Torrence
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1215 Petronia St., Key West FL 33040
305-294-8912

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Mr. Hal Nesbitt, Administrator
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Rev. Judy Davenport (St. Petersburg FL)
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Ms. Lois Luneburg (Arnold CA)
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213-460-2911 Fax 213-460-2913

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Canada - Rev. Diane Fisher
Denmark - Rev. Mia Andersen
Europe - Rev. Neil Thomas
France - Rev. Caroline Blanco
Mexico - Rev. Jorge Sosa
New Zealand - Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein
Nigeria - Rev. Sylvanus Maduka
United Kingdom - Ms. Alison Warder
United States - Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT COORDINATING COUNCIL

Liaising with World Church Extension - Pacific Rim
and the Northwest District
Rev. Vera Bourne, Co-Chair
Green-Winter Farm
Dorroughby NSW 2480 Australia
Int-61-66-895-105

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with District Coordinators and Elders
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Canadian Districts
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161 Woodside Ln., Bexley, Kent DA5 1EY England
Int-44-181-304-2374

Liaising with Mid-Central and Mid-Atlantic Districts
Rev. Coni Staff
254 Faxon Ave., San Francisco CA 94112-2214

Liaising with Southwest, Great Lakes and GLAD
Districts
Ms. Susan Van Houten
8016 NE Oregon, Portland OR 97213-6947

Liaison Elder: Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson

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Executive Director of Evangelism
c/o River City MCC Cathedral of Promise
PO Box 245125 Sacramento, CA 95824
916-364-4324 Fax 916-364-4319

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Rev. Dr. Mel White
Mr. Gary Nixon, Executive Assistant
PO Box 609, Ennis TX 75120
Fax 214-875-4858

CONGREGATIONS DIRECTORY OF UFMCC CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND

MCC in Auckland

CPO Box 3964, Auckland

Int-64-9-629-0927

Pastor: Rev. Michael Horn

Meeting Location: Pitt St. Methodist Church, Newton

Worship Time: Sunday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered

District: Global Outreach

CANTERBURY

All Saints MCC

PO Box 13468, Christchurch

Please contact through the Aotearo New Zealand

area coordinator, Rev. Michael Horn

Int-64-9-629-0927

Pastoral Contact: Rev'd Andrew Donaldson

Meeting Location: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 168 Stanmore Rd., Avonside

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: New Work

District: Global Outreach

WAIKATO

MCC Waikato

10 Hendon Rd., Fairview Downs, Hamilton

Int-64-7-855-0651

Pastor: Rev. Iris Saggars

Meeting Location: Waikato University Chapel

Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Global Outreach

South Waikato Special Outreach

132 Rangatira Dr., Mangakino

Int-64-7-882-8212

Pastoral Contact: Rev'd Leigh Neighbor

Status: Special Work

District: Global Outreach

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES

ICM Buenos Aires

Don Bosco 3428 7 "23", Buenos Aires 1206

Int-54-1-864-7129

Lay Pastoral Leader: Sr. Alejandro Soria

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Global Outreach

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

SYDNEY

MCC Of The Good Shepherd

15 Honor Street, Ermington NSW 2115

Int-61-2-9638-3298 Fax Int-61-2-9387-8371

Pastor: Rev. Cliff Connors

Meeting Location: The Unitarian Church,

15 Francis St., East Sydney

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On July 23, 1989

District: Australian

MCC Sydney

PO Box 1237, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Int-61-2-9332-2457 (also fax)

Pastor: Rev. Greg Smith

Meeting Location: Heffron Hall, Cnr. Burton &

Palmer Sts., Darlinghurst

Worship Time: Sunday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On July 6, 1975

District: Australian

WOLLONGONG

MCC Wollongong

PO Box 288, Thirroul NSW 2515

Int-61-42-967-4883

Pastor: Rev'd Ian Crichton

Meeting Location: King of Peace Uniting Church,

Winnima Way, Berkeley

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: New Work

District: Australian

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

AUSTRALIA *Continued*

QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE

MCC Brisbane

PO Box 317, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Int-61-7-3832-0400

Pastor: Rev. Ivor Holmans

Meeting Location: 446 Ann St.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Australian

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE

MCC Adelaide

PO Box 648, Blackwood SA 5051

Int-61-8-8278-2215

Pastor:

Meeting Location: Society of Friends Meeting House, 40A Pennington Terr., North Adelaide

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Australian

VICTORIA

MELBOURNE

MCC Melbourne

PO Box 701, South Melbourne VIC 3205

Int-61-39-9690-3510

Pastor: Rev. John Fowler

Meeting Location: South Port Parks Parish

Uniting Church, 325 Dorcas St., South Melbourne

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Australian

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PERTH

MCC Perth

PO Box 513, Mirrabooka WA 6061

Int-61-9-344-1158

Pastor:

Meeting Location: Banks Reserve Hall, Joel Terr., East Perth

Worship Time: Sunday 7:30 pm

Status: New Work

District: Australian

CANADA

ALBERTA

EDMONTON

MCC Of Edmonton

10342 107 St, Unit 151, Edmonton AB T5J 1K2

403-429-2321

Email Charles.Bidwell@Ualberta.ca

Interim Pastor: Rev. Charles Bidwell

Meeting Location: 10086 McDonald Dr.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:15 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mountains and Plains

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER

Christ Alive MCC Of Vancouver

PO Box 5178, Vancouver BC V6B 4B2

604-739-7959

Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Michel Amyotte

Meeting Location: 3214 West 10th Ave.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:15 pm

Status: New Work

District: Mountains and Plains

MANITOBA

WINNIPEG

MCC Of Winnipeg

PO Box 5178, Westminster Post Office

Winnipeg MB R3C 4K9

204-661-2219

Interim Pastoral Leader: Rev. Mr. Stanton Richards

Meeting Location: St. Stephen's Bwy United

Church, Broadway & Kennedy

Worship Time: Sunday 7:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mountains and Plains

NEW BRUNSWICK

FREDERICTON

New Hope MCC

749 Charlotte St., Fredericton NB E3B 1M6

506-455-4622

Pastor: Rev. J.J. Lyon

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,

749 Charlotte St.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Mission

District: Eastern Canadian

NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX

Safe Harbour MCC

PO Box 31108, Halifax NS B3K 5T9
902-453-9249
Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Darlene Young
Meeting Location: Universalist Unitarian Church,
5500 Inglis St.
Worship Time: Sunday 7:30 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Eastern Canadian

ONTARIO

BARRIE

Simcoe County MCC

84 Eccles St North, Barrie ON L4N 1Y4
705-725-0170
Pastor: Rev. Marcia Perryman
Meeting Location: Grace United, 350 Grove St. E
Worship Time: Sunday 1:00 pm
Status: Mission
District: Eastern Canadian

BELLEVILLE

Free To Be MCC

179 Palmer Rd #411, Belleville ON K8P 4S8
613-968-5950
Email Diane.Fisher@telos.org
Pastor: Rev. Diane Fisher
Meeting Location: Westminster United Church,
North of Hwy 401 on Wallbridge-Loyalist Rd.
Worship Time: Sunday 1:30 pm
Status: Mission
District: Eastern Canadian

GUELPH

The Rainbow MCC - Guelph

c/o Rev'd Sid Bater, 308-27 Vanier Drive
Guelph ONT N1G 2L1
519-824-1087
Email sbater@uoguelph.ca
Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Sid Bater
Meeting Location: St. Mathias Anglican Church,
171 Kortwright Rd. E
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Mission
District: Eastern Canadian

LONDON

Holy Fellowship MCC

PO Box 25030, 395 Wellington Rd.
London ONT N6C 6A8
519-645-0744
Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Lorne Dubay
Meeting Location: Queens Ave. & William St.
Worship Time: Sunday 7:20 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Eastern Canadian

OTTAWA

MCC Ottawa ECM

Box 40182, 1910 St Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9
613-930-9286
Pastor: Rev. Virginia Reinecker
Meeting Location: 71 Bank St.
Worship Times: Sunday 4:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Eastern Canadian

TORONTO

Christos MCC

353 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2S3
416-925-7924
Pastor: Rev. Susan Mabey
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On December 1, 1990
District: Eastern Canadian

MCC Toronto

115 Simpson Ave, Toronto ON M4K 1A1
416-406-6228 Fax 416-466-5207
Pastor: Rev. Brent Hawkes
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 am &
7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On March 9, 1974
District: Eastern Canadian

WINDSOR

MCC Of Windsor

897 Windmere, Windsor ON N8Y 3E3
519-977-6897
Pastor: Rev. Evan LeBlanc
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Eastern Canadian

CONGREGATIONS

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN

Marken Liljer MCC

PO Box 1023 3rd Floor, Kobenhavn 1007

Int-45-31-833-286

Pastor: Rev. Mia Andersen

Meeting Location: Lesbi/gay Centre,

Teglgaardstraede 13

Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

ENGLAND

BATH

Living Springs MCC

3, Abbey Green, Bath BA1 1NW

Int-44-1225-444347

Pastor: Rev. Lynne Reay

Meeting Location: St. Michael's Day Centre

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

BIRMINGHAM

All God's Children MCC

127 Ardath Road, Kings Norton B38 9PG

Int-44-1-21-458-2389

Pastor:

Meeting Location: Call For Location

Worship Time: Sunday 1:45 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

BOURNEMOUTH

MCC Bournemouth

Hannington Road, Pokesdown BH1 4HI

Int-44-1-202-552609

Pastor: Rev. Neil Thomas

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 6:45 pm

Status: Chartered On October 15, 1991

District: European

BRIGHTON

Whosoever MCC Of Brighton & Hove

Bernard Rd., Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3ER

Int-44-127-3276219

Pastor: Rev. David Miller

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

EXETER

MCC Exeter

Wynards, Magdelene St., Exeter

Pastoral Leader: Mr. Ken Cornish

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: European

LONDON

MCC London

2A Sistova Road, Balham SW12 9QT

Int-44-81-764-8369

Pastor:

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Roy Beaney,

Rev. Michael Moffatt

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On October 2, 1973

District: European

MCC North London

BM/MCC, London WC1N 3XX

Int-44-1-81-670-2619

Pastor: Rev. Gillian Storey

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Elder Hong Tan,

Rev. Doreen Shambrook

Meeting Location: 235 Shaftesbury Ave.

Worship Times: Sunday 7:30 pm &

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On October 15, 1991

District: European

The MCC In East London

BM Handshake, London WC1N 3XX

Int-44-1-81-532-9948

Pastor: Rev. Jane Clarke

Meeting Location: 327A Mile End Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

MANCHESTER

MCC Manchester

6 Mount Street, Manchester M25NS

Int-44-1-61-831-7370

Pastor:

Meeting Location: Manchester City Hall,

Lloyd St. Entrance

Worship Times: Sunday 3:30 pm &

Wednesday 7:45 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: European

NEWCASTLE

MCC Newcastle

28 Tennyson St., Middlesborough

Cleveland TS1 4LZ

Int-44-91-642-241819

Pastoral Team Coordinator: Mr. John Lawson

Meeting Location: St John's URC

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: European

NOTTINGHAM

MCC Nottingham
 214 Ravensworth Rd., Bulwell
 Nottingham N9G 89B
 Status: New Work
 District: European

SOUTHAMPTON

Pax Christi MCC Southampton
 107 Salisbury Road, Totton
 Southampton SO40 3HZ
 Int-44-1-703-861256
 Pastor:
 Meeting Location: Ordance Rd.
 Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: European

New Congregations Being Developed in Oxford,
 Cheltenham, Portsmouth, Leeds and Dorchester.
 Contact the District Office for further details.

FRANCE

PARIS

Centre De L'Esprit Libérateur
 5 Rue Crussol, 75011 Paris
 Int-1-39-831-344 (Also fax)
 Pastor: Rev. Caroline Blanco
 Meeting Location: Call for details
 Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: European

GERMANY

HAMBURG

Basissgemeinde MCC Hamburg
 c/o Prevention E.V., Kleiner Pulverteich 17-21
 Hamburg 20099
 Int-49-040-51-5608
 Pastor: Rev. Thomas Friedhoff
 Meeting Location: Cvjm An Der Alster 40
 Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
 Status: Chartered
 District: European

KOLN (COLOGNE)

MCC Koln
 c/o Rudi Winter, Schaafenstr.7, 50676 Koln
 Int-49-0221-2403546
 Pastoral Leader: Mr. Rudi Winter

Meeting Location: Schulz, Kartausser Wall 18
 Worship Time: 3rd Saturday 3:30 pm
 Status: Parish Extension (MCC Hamburg)
 District: European

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

TIJUANA

ICM De Tijuana
 Call Global Outreach Administrator

JALISCO

GUADALAJARA

ICM Guadalajara
 Int-52-3-619-5432 (also Fax)
 Pastor: Rev. Tomas Garcia
 Meeting Location: San Miguel, 420 Altos,
 Col Chapalita
 Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: Global Outreach

ICM Santa Cruz

Apartado Postal 1-2034, 44101 Guadalajara, Jalisco
 Int-52-3-615-2718; Int-52-3-649-7524
 Pastoral leader: Sr. David Leonardo Limon Avila
 Status: Feasibility
 District: Global Outreach

ZAPOPAN

ICM Christo Amigo
 Call Global Outreach Administrator

MORELOS

CUERNAVACA

ICM Renovacion
 Apdo 860, Cuernavaca, Morelos
 Int-52-7-318-1517
 Pastor: Rev. Alfonso Leija
 Meeting Location: Leandro Valle 512, Interior 1
 Worship Time: Saturday 6:00 pm
 Status: New Work
 District: Global Outreach

CONGREGATIONS

MEXICO *Continued*

DISTRITO FEDERAL

MEXICO CITY

ICM Reconciliacion

Apdo Postal #7-1423, Mexico DF, 06700

Int-52-5-396-7768

Pastor: Rev. Jorge Sosa

Meeting Location: Norte 77 #3218,

Colonia Obrera, Popular

Worship Time: Sunday 12:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Global Outreach

NIGERIA

The Central Address For All Mail Is:

Rev. Sylvanus Maduka

PO Box 478, Okigwe, Imo State

ABIA STATE

MCC-Umuahia

MCC-Isukwuato

MCC-Uturu

ANAMBARA STATE

MCC Onitsha

EDO STATE

MCC Benin City

ENUGU STATE

MCC Abakiliki

IMO STATE

MCC Amaraku

MCC Ezinachi

MCC Farm Settlement Ulonna North

MCC Isiagtu

MCC Mbasi

MCC Mberi

MCC Obinikpa Okigwe

MCC Okigwe Pastor: Rev. Sylvanus Maduka

MCC Orlu

MCC Orodo Owerri Pastor: Rev. Clement

Akanazu

MCC Owerri

MCC Umuaka Owerri

MCC Umuawa Ogee

PHILIPPINES

MANILA

MCC Manila

3539 Honda Street, Pinagkaisahan, Makati
Manila 1004

Int-63-2-844-5880

Pastoral Leader: Mr. Edgar Mendoza

Meeting Location: 2158 Singalong St.,
Malate, Manila

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Global Outreach

SOUTH AFRICA

PRETORIA

Deo Gloria Family Church MCC

PO Box 4343 The Reeds, Pretoria 0158 RSA

Int-27-12-655-0783

Pastor: Rev. Sue Welman

Meeting Location: 501 White St.

Meeting Time: Sunday 5:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Global Outreach

Reforming Church, an MCC

PO Box 75641, Lynnwood Ridge 0040 RSA

Int-27-12-348-9024

Pastor: Rev. Andre Muller

Meeting Location: 501 White St., Pretoria

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: To be chartered

District: Global Outreach

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM

Covenant MCC

PO Box 101473, Birmingham AL 35210

205-599-3363

Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona

Meeting Location: 5117 First Ave. N

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

HUNTSVILLE

MCC Of Huntsville

3015 Sparkman Drive NW

Huntsville AL 35810-3713

256-851-6914

Pastor: Rev. Marianne McPherson

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 6:00 pm

RevMGM@concentric.com

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

Status: Chartered On October 1, 1989
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

MOBILE

MCC Cornerstone

PO Box 6311, Mobile AL 36660-0311
334-476-4621

Pastor: Rev. Helene Loper
Meeting Location: 2201 Government St.
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

MONTGOMERY

MCC Montgomery

PO Box 603, Montgomery AL 36101-0603
334-279-7894

Interim Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Andy Knight
Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,
5280 Vaughn Rd.
Worship Time: Sunday 5:30 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

TUSCALOOSA

Covenant MCC

PO Box 101473, Birmingham AL 35210
Worship Coordinator: Dr. Lee Rahl
Worship Location: Holiday Inn, MacFarland Blvd.
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Parish Extension
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

ALASKA

ANCHORAGE

Lamb Of God MCC

PO Box 20-1987, Anchorage AL 99520
907-258-5266 Fax 907-276-7850
Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Knisley
Meeting Location: 417 Barrow St.
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

ARIZONA

PHOENIX

Gentle Shepherd MCC

PO Box 33758, Phoenix AZ 85067-3758
602-285-9020
Pastor:
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Charlotte Strayhorn
Meeting Location: Call for location
Worship Time: Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Status: Chartered On November 1, 1992
District: Southwest

TUCSON

Water of Life MCC

3269 Mountain Ave N, Tucson AZ 85719
520-292-9151
Pastor: Rev. Nita T. Willey
Worship Times: Sunday 10:45 am & 6:30 pm;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On June 9, 1981
District: Southwest

ARKANSAS

EUREKA SPRINGS

MCC Of The Living Spring

PO Box 365, Eureka Springs AR 72632
501-253-9337
Pastor: Rev. Kermie Wohlenhaus
Meeting Location: 17 Elk St.
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

FAYETTEVILLE

MCC Of The Living Word

PO Box 92, Fayetteville AR 72702-0092
501-443-4278
Pastor:
Meeting Location: 10571 N. Highway 265
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

LITTLE ROCK

MCC Of The Rock

PO Box 1964, Little Rock AR 72203-1964
501-753-7075
Pastor: Rev. Barbara Freeman
Meeting Location: 2017 Chandler, North Little Rock
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

Spirit Song MCC

PO Box 250307, Little Rock AR 72225
501-223-2828 Fax 501-663-4718
Pastor: Rev. Angela Peace
Meeting Location: 1818 Reservoir Rd.
Worship Time: Sunday 2:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD

MCC Of The Harvest Bakersfield

PO Box 30357, Bakersfield CA 93385
805-327-3724

Email MCCbakCA@aol.com

Pastor: Board of Directors

Meeting Location: 2415 Alta Vista Dr.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Southwest

BERKELEY

New Life MCC

1823 9th Street, Berkeley CA 94710-2102

510-843-9355

Pastor: Rev. Barry Wichmann

Worship Time: Sunday 12:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

CLAREMONT

Department Of Children's Ministries

243 South Mills Ave., Claremont CA 91711

909-398-7036

Pastor: Rev. Barbara Sagat

Status: Special Work

District: Southwest

COSTA MESA

Balm Publishing

PO Box 1981, Costa Mesa CA 92628

714-641-8968

Musical Evangelist: Ms. Marsha Stevens

Manager: Ms. Suzanne McKeag

Status: Special Work

District: Southwest

FRONTERA

Free Spirit MCC-CIW

c/o MCCLA, PO Box 46609

Los Angeles CA 90046

213-460-2911

Pastor: Rev. Barbara Haynes

Assistant: Ms. Gale Smith

Meeting Location: California Institution for Women

Worship Time: Saturday 2:00 pm

Church Status: Special Work

District: Southwest

GLENDALE

Divine Redeemer MCC

346 Riverdale Drive, Glendale CA 91204-2019

818-500-7124

Pastor:

Worship Time: Sunday 10:45 am

Status: Chartered On June 26, 1988

District: Southwest

GUERNEVILLE

MCC of the Redwood Empire

PO Box 1055, Guerneville CA 95446

707-869-0552

Pastor: Rev. John Torres

Meeting Location: 14520 Armstrong Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 12:00 pm

Status: Continuing Work

District: Northwest

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Resurrection Beach MCC

10820 Beverly Blvd., A5-114

Whittier CA 90601

301-464-1905

Pastor: Rev. Susan Sawyer-Hilty

Meeting Location: Community Bldg, Lake Park,

12th St. between Lake & Main

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Southwest

LANCASTER

Sunrise MCC Of The Hi Desert

PO Box 886, Lancaster CA 93584

805-942-7076

Pastor:

Meeting Location: 45303 23rd Street W

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Southwest

LONG BEACH

MCC Long Beach

3840 Cherry Ave., Long Beach CA 90806

310-426-0222 Fax 310-426-8321

Pastor: Rev. Sandra Turnbull

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Chartered On March 12, 1972

District: Southwest

LOS ANGELES

MCC Los Angeles

PO Box 46609, Los Angeles CA 90046-0609

213-460-2911 Fax 213-460-2913

Email MCCLA@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Evelyn Kinser, Rev. Lori Dick,

Rev. Barbara Haynes, Rev. Dawn Wilder,

Rev. Jorge Delgado

Meeting Location: Fiesta Hall-Plummer Park,

West Hollywood

Worship Times: Sunday 9:00, 10:00 & 11:15 am
 Status: Chartered On October 6, 1968
 District: Southwest

MCC For All The Saints

3621 Brunswick Ave, Los Angeles CA 90039
 213-665-8818
 Pastor: Rev. Joseph Gilbert
 Clergy On Staff: Rev'd Tracie Barber
 Worship Time: Sunday 1:30 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: Southwest

MCC In The Valley

5730 Cahuenga Blvd.
 North Hollywood CA 91601-2105
 818-762-1133
 Email: MCCValley@aol.com
 Pastor:
 Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am
 Status: Chartered On March 25, 1973
 District: Southwest

OAKLAND

Mother River Spirit

PO Box 20918, Oakland CA 94620
 510-547-8386
 Co-Pastors: Rev. Claudia Vierra-Allen &
 Rev Yolanda Vierra-Allen
 Meeting Location: Call For Location
 Worship Time:
 Status: Special Ministry
 District: Northwest

POMONA

MCC Of The Pomona Valley

PO Box 1281, Claremont CA 91711-1281
 909-392-0422
 Pastor: Rev. David Gillentine
 Meeting Location: 509 S. College Ave
 Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
 Status: Chartered On March 27, 1977
 District: Southwest

REDWOOD CITY

MCC Of The Peninsula

PO Box 70, Redwood City CA 94064-0070
 415-368-0188
 Pastor:
 Meeting Location: 2124 Brewster Ave. at Lowell
 Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm
 Status: Continuing Work
 District: Northwest

SACRAMENTO

River City MCC Cathedral Of Promise

PO Box 245125, Sacramento CA 95824
 916-364-4324 Fax 916-364-4319
 Pastor: Rev. Elder Freda Smith
 Clergy On Staff: Rev. Edward Sherriff,
 Rev. A. Austin Amerine, Rev. Jodi Safier,
 Rev. Terri L. Miller
 Meeting Location: 10500 Grasshopper Ave.,
 (3 Blocks Inside Main Gate On Mather AFB
 Chapel 1)
 Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am &
 6:00 pm; Wednesday 7:30 pm
 Status: Chartered On September 3, 1971
 District: Northwest

SAN DIEGO

MCC In The Country

3901 "C" Manzanita Drive, San Diego CA 92105
 619-282-8488
 Pastor: Rev. Yvette Dube
 Meeting Location: 1600 Buena Vista Dr., Vista
 Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: Southwest

MCC San Diego

PO Box 33291, San Diego CA 92163
 619-280-4333 Fax 619-280-7744
 Email MCCSD@aol.com
 Pastor: Rev. Tony Freeman
 Clergy On Staff: Rev. Houston Burnside, Jr.
 Meeting Location: 4333 30th St.
 Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am
 Status: Chartered On June 6, 1970
 District: Southwest

Spirit Eagle MCC

PO Box 746, Spring Valley CA 91976
 619-447-4660
 Pastor: Rev. Diane Miller
 Meeting Location: 2770 Glebe Rd., Lemon Grove
 Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
 Status: Commissioned
 District: Southwest

SAN FRANCISCO

Golden Gate MCC

1508 Church St., San Francisco CA 94114
 415-642-0294
 Pastor: Rev. Sharna Sutherin
 Clergy on Staff: Rev. Frank Scarlett, Rev. Alan
 Eddington
 Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 10:30 am
 Status: Chartered On March 27, 1983
 District: Northwest

CONGREGATIONS

USA, CALIFORNIA *Continued*

MCC San Francisco

150 Eureka St., San Francisco CA 94114-2492
415-863-4434 Fax 415-431-9813

Pastor: Rev. James Mitulski

Clergy On Staff: Rev. William Lowell, Rev. Steve Carson, Rev. Robert Hogg, Rev. G. Penny Nixon, Rev. Lea D. Brown, Rev. Karen A. Foster

Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On April 26, 1970
District: Northwest

SAN JOSE

MCC San Jose

PO Box 388, San Jose CA 95103-0388
408-279-2711

Pastor: Rev. Denis Moore

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Chadwick Pifer, Rev. Gary Wilson

Meeting Location: 65 South 7th St.

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & Wednesday 10:30 am

Status: Chartered On March 1, 1972
District: Northwest

SAN LORENZO

MCC Of Greater Hayward

100 Hacienda, San Lorenzo CA 94580
510-481-9720

Pastor: Rev. Michael England

Worship Time: Sunday 12:30 pm

Status: Continuing Work
District: Northwest

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Spirit Of Hope MCC At California Men's Colony

1065 Casitas Pass Rd. #208
Carpinteria CA 93013
805-566-1093

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Piccari

Meeting Location: California Men's Colony

Worship Time: One Sunday a month 12:30 pm

Status: Special Work
District: Southwest

MCC Of The Central Coast

PO Box 1117, Grover City CA 93483-1117
805-481-9376 Fax 805-489-4925
Email MCCofCC@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Randy Lester-Wilson

Meeting Location: 2333 Meadow St., San Luis Obispo

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: New Work

District: Southwest

SANTA ANA

Christ Chapel MCC

720 North Spurgeon St.
Santa Ana CA 92701-3722
714-835-0722

Pastor: Rev. Pat Leffler

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Chartered On April 10, 1971

District: Southwest

SANTA BARBARA

Grace Chapel MCC

1065 Casitas Pass Rd. #208
Carpinteria CA 93013
805-566-1093

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joseph Piccari

Meeting Location: Call for location

Worship Time: Call for time

Status: New Work

District: Southwest

SANTA CRUZ

Lavender Road MCC

PO Box 1764, Santa Cruz CA 95060
408-335-0466

Pastor: Rev. Jean Hart

AM Meeting Location: 303 Walnut Ave.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

PM Meeting Location: Central & Forest, Pacific Grove

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

SANTA ROSA

New Hope! MCC

PO Box 11278, Santa Rosa CA 95406
707-526-4673

Pastor: Rev. Alice Urbanowicz

Meeting Location: 200 5th St.

Worship Time: Sunday 11:30 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

VENTURA

MCC Ventura

PO Box 25610, Ventura CA 93002
805-643-0502

Pastor:

Meeting Location: 1848 Poli St.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm

Status: Chartered On March 25, 1984

District: Southwest

VISALIA

MCC Of The Sequoias

PO Box 4535, Visalia CA 93278-4535
209-636-3683
Pastoral Leaders: Mr. Slade Childers
Meeting Location: Whittendale Comm. Center,
630 W. Beech St.
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: New Work
District: Southwest

WALNUT CREEK

Diablo Valley MCC

PO Box 139, Concord CA 94522-0139
510-283-2238
Pastor: Rev. Jack Isbell
Meeting Location: United Methodist Church,
1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek
Worship Time: Sunday 1:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

WHITTIER

Good Samaritan MCC

11931 Washington Blvd., Whittier CA 90606
310-696-6213
Pastor: Rev. Gina Chapman
Clergy on Staff: Rev. Kathy Patrick
Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: Southwest

COLORADO

BOULDER

MCC of Boulder

PO Box 4411, Boulder CO 80303-4411
303-444-9453
Email: Jeremybear@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Jeremy McLeod
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Meeting Location: 2650 Table Mesa Dr.
Status: Mission
District: Mountains and Plains

COLORADO SPRINGS

Pikes Peak MCC

730 North Tejon St.
Colorado Springs CO 80903-1012
719-634-3771 Fax 719-634-3015
Pastor: Rev. Nori Rost
Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm
Status: Chartered On October 26, 1985
District: Mountains and Plains

DENVER

MCC Of The Rockies

980 Clarkson St., Denver CO 80218-2703
303-860-1819 Fax 303-860-1594
Interim Pastor: Rev. Anthony Freeman
Clergy on Staff: Rev. Jamie Forsythe, Rev. Ron Gee
Worship Time: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On May 26, 1974
District: Mountains and Plains

FORT COLLINS

MCC Family In Christ

1205 West Elizabeth St. #E-172
Fort Collins CO 80521
970-221-0811
Webpage http://people.delphi.com/mark_lee
Pastor: Rev. Mark Lee
Meeting Location: 805 South Shields
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

PUEBLO

MCC Of Pueblo

PO Box 1918, Pueblo CO 81002
719-543-6460
Pastor: Rev. Claudia Wolf
Meeting Location: 1003 Liberty Lane
Worship Times: Sunday 5:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD

MCC Hartford

1841 Broad St., Hartford CT 06114
203-724-4605
Pastor: Rev. David Jarvis
Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northeast

NEW HAVEN

MCC New Haven

566 Whalley Ave. #1D, New Haven CT 06511
203-389-6750 Fax 203-389-6318
Pastor: Rev. Frank Beard
Meeting Location: 34 Harrison St.
Worship Times: Sunday 9:30 am & 4:00 pm
Status: Chartered On May 1, 1987
District: Northeast

CONGREGATIONS

DELAWARE

REHOBOTH

MCC Rehoboth Beach

PO Box 191, Rehoboth DE 19971

302-226-0816

Pastoral Leader: Mr. David Patterson

Meeting Location: Route 21, Go 1/2 mi.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Mission

District: Mid-Atlantic

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MCC Of The Disciples

912 Third St. NW, Washington DC 20001

202-842-4870

Pastor: Rev. Harry Stock

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Mid-Atlantic

MCC Washington

474 Ridge St. NW, Washington DC 20001

202-638-7373 Fax 202-638-4048

Pastor: Rev. Candace Shultis

Clergy on Staff: Rev. Phillip Mathews

Meeting Location: 5th St. between M & N St.

Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am &

7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On May 11, 1971

District: Mid-Atlantic

FLORIDA

BOCA RATON

Church Of Our Savior MCC

4770 Boca Raton Blvd. Ste C

Boca Raton FL 33431

407-998-0454

Pastor:

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: Chartered On August 12, 1992

District: Southeast

COCOA

Breaking The Silence MCC

PO Box 1585, Cocoa FL 32923

407-631-4524

Pastor: Rev. Linda Beane

Meeting Location: 1261 Range Rd.

Worship Times: Sunday 7:00 pm &

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Southeast

DAYTONA BEACH

Hope MCC

PO Box 15151, Daytona Beach FL 32115

904-254-0993

Pastor: Rev. Steve Steele

Meeting Location: 56 N Halifax, Ormond Beach

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Southeast

FORT LAUDERDALE

Sunshine Cathedral MCC

330 SW 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale FL 33315

305-462-2004 Fax/Tld: 305-462-7070

Pastor: Rev. Grant Ford

Worship Times: Sunday 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On June 18, 1971

District: Southeast

FORT MYERS

St. John The Apostle MCC

PO Box 6779, Ft. Myers FL 33911-6779

941-278-5181

Pastor: Rev. Renne Shawver

Meeting Location: 2209 Unity Ave.

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm;

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On April 3, 1991

District: Southeast

GAINESVILLE

Trinity MCC

PO Box 140535, Gainesville FL 32614

904-495-3378 Fax 904-495-3050

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Seay

Meeting Location: 11604 SW Archer Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:15 am

Status: Chartered On March 3, 1986

District: Southeast

HOLIDAY

Spirit Of Life MCC

4810 Mile Stretch Dr., Holiday FL 34690

813-942-8616

Pastor: Rev. Andy Sidden

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Southeast

JACKSONVILLE

St Luke's MCC

1140 S. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville FL 32205

904-389-7726

Pastor: Rev. Frankye White

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Ken Hull, Jr., Rev. Ruth Jensen

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 Status: Chartered On April 15, 1974
 District: Southeast

KEY WEST

MCC Key West

1215 Petronia St., Key West FL 33040
 305-294-8912 Fax 305-294-6198
 Pastor: Rev. Steven Torrence
 Clergy On Staff: Rev. Julia Seward
 Worship Times: Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 am;
 Wednesday 7:00 pm
 Status: Chartered On March 3, 1986
 District: Southeast

MIAMI

Christ MCC

7701 SW 76th Ave., Miami FL 33143
 305-284-1040 Fax 305-663-3475
 Pastor:
 Worship Times: Sunday 9:30 am & 7:00 pm
 Status: Chartered On October 1, 1970
 District: Southeast

MIAMI BEACH

MCC South Beach

PO Box 414463, Miami Beach FL 33141
 305-759-1015
 Pastor: Rev. Lou Kavar
 Meeting Location: 21st St. Recreation Center
 Meeting Time: Sunday 11:00 am
 Status: Parish Extension (Sunshine Cathedral)
 District: Southeast

ORLANDO

Joy MCC

PO Box 3004, Orlando FL 32802-3004
 407-894-1081 Fax 407-896-6951
 Pastor: Rev. James Brock
 Assistant to Pastor: Ms. Carol Trissell
 Meeting Location: 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave.
 Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & 7:15 pm
 Status: Chartered On March 13, 1983
 District: Southeast

PEMBROKE PINES

High Praise Ministry

Karen Ann Edwards (Musical Evangelist)
 c/o Evans, 11217 NW 15th Place
 Pembroke Pines FL 33026
 954-432-7589
 Contact: Ms. Ro Sanzone
 Status: Special Work
 District: Southeast

PENSACOLA

Holy Cross MCC

415 North Alcaniz, Pensacola FL 32501
 904-433-8528
 Pastoral Leader: Ms. Zaida Rivera
 Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
 Status: Chartered On October 8, 1989
 District: Southeast

SARASOTA

Church Of The Trinity MCC

7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota FL 34243
 941-355-0847 Fax 941-351-0750
 Pastor: Rev. Gus Kein
 Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am
 Status: Chartered On April 23, 1989
 District: Southeast

ST. PETERSBURG

King Of Peace MCC

3150 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg FL 33713-7610
 813-323-5857 Fax 813-327-7670
 Pastor: Rev. Elder John Gill
 Clergy On Staff: Rev. Teena Carpenter, Rev. Joe Scholtes
 Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
 Status: Chartered On March 2, 1985
 District: Southeast

TALLAHASSEE

Gentle Shepherd MCC

PO Box 6137, Tallahassee FL 32314
 904-552-1808
 Pastor:
 Meeting Location: 2810 N. Meridian Rd.
 Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
 Status: New Work
 District: Southeast

TAMPA

MCC Of Tampa

408 E. Cayuga St., Tampa FL 33603
 813-239-1951 Fax 813-831-6197
 Pastor: Rev. Karen Ducham
 Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am
 Status: Chartered On August 6, 1971
 District: Southeast

VENICE

SunCoast Cathedral MCC

3276 East Venice, Venice FL 34272
 941-484-7068 Fax 941-484-7481
 Pastor: Rev. Sherry Kennedy
 Associate Pastor: Rev. Cathy Elliott
 Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am & Thursday 6:30 pm
 Status: New Work
 District: Southeast

CONGREGATIONS

313-2933

USA, FLORIDA *Continued*

WEST PALM BEACH

MCC Of The Palm Beaches

PO Box 18527, West Palm Beach FL 33416
407-687-3943

Pastor: Rev. Marion Harrison

Meeting Location: 3500 45th St. Ste 2A

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On May 19, 1985

District: Southeast

GEORGIA

ATLANTA

All Saints MCC Of Atlanta

PO Box 5439, Atlanta GA 30307

404-622-1164 *524-9090*

Pastor: Rev. John Hankins

Meeting Location: YMCA, 957 N. Highland

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On July 10, 1988

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

First MCC Of Atlanta

1379 Tullie Road NE, Atlanta GA 30329

404-325-4143 Fax 404-325-1865

Pastor: Rev. Reid Christensen *Mike Nicholas*

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Emily Bel,

Rev R. W. "Chip" Carson

Worship Times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 am &

7:30 pm; Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On April 16, 1972

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

AUGUSTA

MCC Augusta

1736 Ferriwell St., Augusta GA 30904

706-860-7131

Pastor: Rev'd Jeff Pullium

Worship Times: Sunday 7:30 pm &

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

COLUMBUS

Family Of God MCC

PO Box 2201, Columbus GA 31902

706-327-7414

Interim Pastor: Rev. Emily Bel

Meeting Location: 1442 Doublechurches Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

DECATUR

Christ Covenant MCC

109 Hibernia, Decatur GA 30030 - *2948*

404-~~297-0350~~ (also Fax)

Pastor: Rev. Glenna Shepherd

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered on November 10, 1994

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

SAVANNAH

Disciples of the Trinity MCC

PO Box 14624, Savannah GA 31416

912-231-1065

Pastor: Rev. Mel Bailey

Meeting Location: 321 E. York St.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm

Status: Parish Extension

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

HAWAII

HONOLULU

Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC

PO Box 12260, Honolulu HI 96826

808-947-1027

Pastor: Rev. Jon Bullock

Clergy on Staff: Rev. Franny Little Bear

Meeting Location: 1212 University Ave.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

IDAHO

BOISE

MCC At Boise

PO Box 1959, Boise ID 83701

208-342-6764

Pastor: Rev. Tyrone Sweeting

Meeting Location: 2000 Kootenai

Worship Time: Sunday 5:45 pm

Status: Chartered On July 24, 1983

District: Northwest

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO

Church Of The Resurrection MCC

5540 South Woodlawn Ave.

Chicago IL 60637-1623

312-288-1535

Pastor: Rev. Gordon McCoy

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Shane Desautels

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am &

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Great Lakes

Good Shepherd Parish MCC

615 West Wellington Ave., Chicago IL 60657-5305
312-472-8708
Pastor: Rev. Wayne Bradley
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On October 17, 1970
District: Great Lakes

HINSDALE

Holy Covenant MCC

17 West Maple, Hinsdale IL 60521-3495
708-325-8488 Fax 708-325-8605
Email HCMCC@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Karon VanGelder
Meeting Location: 11 West Maple
Worship Time: Sunday 5:50 pm
Status: Chartered On June 9, 1981
District: Great Lakes

OAK PARK

MCC Of The Incarnation

460 Lake St., Oak Park IL 60302
708-383-3033
Email LarryHeEnt@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Bradley Mickelson
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

QUINCY

MCC Illiamo

PO Box 421, Quincy IL 62306-0421
217-224-2800
Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Mike Howard
Meeting Location: 124 1/2 North 5th St.
Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

SPRINGFIELD

Faith Eternal MCC

304 West Allen St., Springfield IL 62704
217-525-9597
Email jim.lynch@accessil.com
Pastor: Rev. Jim Lynch
Worship Times: Sunday 10 am & 6:00 pm
Status: Chartered On March 3, 1986
District: Great Lakes

WAUKEGAN

Joy Of Life MCC

511 South Lewis Ave., Waukegan IL 60085
847-263-5197
Email RalphWes@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Peter Trabaris

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Jim Ulisse
Meeting Location: 1520 N. McAre
Worship Time: Saturday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS

Jesus MCC

PO Box 1244, Indianapolis IN 46206-1244
317-895-4934
Email RevLD@aol.com
Interim Pastor: Rev. LisaDawn McCabe
Meeting Location: 3620 N. Franklin
Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm &
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

IOWA

DAVENPORT

MCC Of The Quad Cities

3019 N. Harrison, Davenport IA 52803
319-324-8281
Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Loretta Gamble
Meeting Location: 3025 N. Harrison
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On March 13, 1984
District: Mountains and Plains

DES MOINES

Church Of The Holy Spirit MCC

PO Box 8426, Des Moines IA 50301
515-284-7940
Pastor: Rev. Paul Whiting
Clergy on Staff: Rev. Sharon Sloat
Meeting Location: 1548 8th St.
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Chartered On October 19, 1975
District: Mountains and Plains

KANSAS

MANHATTAN

MCC Of The Open Arms

PO Box 487, Ogden KS 66517
913-587-0731
Email Revddl@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Denise Leopold
Meeting Location: Danforth Chapel, Vattier St.,
Kansas State University Campus, Manhattan
Worship Time: Sunday 1:30 pm
Status: Mission
District: Mountains and Plains

CONGREGATIONS

USA, KANSAS *Continued*

SHAWNEE

MCC Of Johnson County

12510 West 62nd Terrace #105-106

Shawnee KS 66216

913-631-1184

Pastor: Rev. Celena Duncan

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am &

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mountains and Plains

TOPEKA

MCC Topeka

PO Box 4776, Topeka KS 66604-0776

913-271-8431

Pastor: Rev. Paul Evans

Meeting Location: 2425 SE Indiana

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

Status: Chartered On February 28, 1990

District: Mountains and Plains

WICHITA

First MCC Of Kansas

156 S. Kansas Ave., Wichita KS 67211

316-267-1852

Email FMCCWICHIT@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Shelley Hamilton

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & 7:00 pm;

Wednesday 6:00 pm

Status: Chartered On September 12, 1976

District: Mountains and Plains

KENTUCKY

ELIZABETHTOWN

MCC Elizabethtown

PO Box 425, Elizabethtown KY 42702-0425

502-459-6075

Pastor: Rev. Cathy Porter

Meeting Location: Travel Lodge, Highway 62

Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm

Status: New Work

District: Great Lakes

LEXINGTON

Lexington's MCC

PO Box 306, Lexington KY 40508-0306

606-271-1407

Pastor: Rev. B. Rex Van Alstine

Meeting Location: 134 Church St.

Worship Time: Sunday 11:30 am

Status: Mission

District: Great Lakes

LOUISVILLE

MCC Louisville

PO Box 32474, Louisville KY 40232-0474

502-775-6636 Fax 502-897-3821

Email MCCLville@aol.com

Email RevDee@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Dee Dale

Clergy on Staff: Rev. Donna Bruner

Meeting Location: 4222 Bank St.

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On November 17, 1985

District: Great Lakes

PADUCAH

MCC In Paducah

PO Box 188, Paducah KY 42002-0188

502-898-2581

Email SWhee50905@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Phyllis Motta

Meeting Location: The Ritz Hotel

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Great Lakes

LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE

Joie De Vivre MCC

PO Box 64996, Baton Rouge LA 70896-4996

504-383-0450

Pastor: Rev. Don Clarke

Meeting Location: 333 East Chimes St.

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

LAFAYETTE

Eglise Du Saint Esprit MCC

PO Box 92682, Lafayette LA 70509

318-232-0546

Pastor: Rev. Bev Stephenson

Meeting Location: Wesley Center,

Cnr. of University & General Gardner

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Mission

District: South Central

NEW ORLEANS

Vieux Carre MCC

1128 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans LA 70117

504-945-5390

Pastor: Rev. Dexter S. Brecht

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

SHREVEPORT

Victory Fellowship MCC

PO Box 4200, Shreveport LA 71134
318-861-3482

Pastor: Rev. Charlene Buck
Meeting Location: 9449 Ellerbe
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

MAINE

AUGUSTA

Northern Lights MCC

PO Box 2845, Augusta ME 04338-2845
207-621-2658
Email twomen@mint.net
Pastoral Leader: Rev. Bill Gordon
Meeting Location: Riverside Motel on Riverside Dr.
Worship Time: Sunday 4:00 pm
Status: New Work
District: Northeast

PORTLAND

MCC Of Portland, Maine

PO Box 1671, Portland ME 04104-1671
207-775-6684 x32
Pastoral Leader Team: Mr. Brian Pulling &
Mr. Alan Watson
Meeting Location: 156 High St.
Worship Time: Saturday 4:00 pm
Status: New Work
District: Northeast

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE

MCC Baltimore

3401 Old York Rd., Baltimore MD 21218
410-889-6363
Pastor: Rev. David Smith
Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am
Status: Mission
District: Mid-Atlantic

BOYDS

Open Door MCC

PO Box 127, Boyds MD 20841-0127
301-601-9112 Fax 301-916-0618
Email Kene123@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Ken Ehrke
Meeting Location: 15817 Barnesville Rd.
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 10:30 am
Status: Chartered
District: Mid-Atlantic

GAITHERSBURG

Chi Rho Press

PO Box 7864, Gaithersburg MD 20898
301-670-1859 (also Fax)
Email AdamDeB@aol.com
Director: Mr. R. Adam Debaugh
Status: Special Work
District: Mid-Atlantic

HAGERSTOWN

MCC Hagerstown

PO 2806, Hagerstown MD 21741-2806
301-601-9112 Fax 301-916-0618 (Open Door
telephone & fax)
Pastoral Leader: Mr. Robert L. Griffin
Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,
465 N. Potomac St.
Meeting Time: Sunday 3:00 pm
Status: Parish Extension
District: Mid-Atlantic

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

MCC Boston

PO Box 15590, Kenmore Station
Boston MA 02215
617-288-8029
Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Mark Michelson
Meeting Location: 131 Cambridge St.
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northeast

WORCESTER

Morning Star MCC

231 Main St., Cherry Valley MA 01611
508-892-4320
Email GAYBIEN@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Ron Anderson
Worship Times: Sunday 9:45 am & 12:00 pm;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On July 1, 1990
District: Northeast

MICHIGAN

DETROIT

Divine Peace MCC

PO Box 71938, Madison Heights MI 48071-0938
810-544-8335
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Padgett
Meeting Location: 23839 John R., Hazel Park
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

USA, MICHIGAN *Continued*

MCC Detroit

PO Box 836, Royal Oak MI 48068-0836
810-399-7741
Email ECBIC@aol.com
Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Mark Bidwell
Meeting Location: 2441 Pinecrest
Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On August 20, 1972
District: Great Lakes

FLINT

Redeemer MCC Of Flint

1665 N. Chevrolet Ave., Flint MI 48504
810-238-6700
Email RedeemerMCC@aol.com
Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Lillian Ferguson
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &
Thursday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

GRAND RAPIDS

Reconciliation MCC

300 Graceland St. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49505
616-364-7633 Fax 616-959-0118 (use cover sheet)
Pastor: Rev. Lin Stoner
Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 5pm;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On December 18, 1988
District: Great Lakes

SPRING LAKE

Lighthouse of Hope MCC

PO Box 132, Muskegon MI 49443-0132
616-874-8607 Fax 616-957-0118 (use cover sheet)
Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Carole Hoke
Meeting Location: Christ Community Church
Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Mission
District: Great Lakes

YPSILANTI

Tree Of Life MCC

218 N. Adams St., Ypsilanti MI 48197
313-485-3922
Email frnmayes@umich.edu
Pastor: Rev. Fran Mayes
Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm &
Wednesday 6:00 pm
Status: New Work
District: Great Lakes

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

All God's Children MCC

3100 Park Ave., Minneapolis MN 55407
612-824-2673 Fax 612-824-4609
Pastor: Rev. Paul Graetz
Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On July 25, 1976
District: Mountains and Plains

MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI

MCC Of The Gulf Coast

PO Box 1182, Biloxi MS 39533-1182
601-392-2214
Worship Coordinator: Mr. Thad McIntyre
Meeting Location: 1236 Railroad Ave.
Worship Times: Sunday 5:30 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

JACKSON

MCC Of The Rainbow

5565 Robinson Rd., Ext #6, Jackson MS 39296
601-982-0227 **372-7979**
Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Carl Matthews-Naylor
Meeting Location: 5565 Robinson Rd., Ext #6
Worship Times: Sunday 11:30 am
Status: New Work
District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

Gentle Souls MCC

PO Box 22643, Kansas City MO 64113
816-363-6093
Interim Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Clay Ollis
Meeting Location: 303 W. 73 St.
Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

Spirit Of Hope MCC

PO Box 10087, Kansas City MO 64171-0087
816-931-0750
Email KCJohnB@aol.com
Email psrh87@prodigy.com
Pastor: Rev. John Barbone
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Jan Kross,
Rev Barbara Price
Meeting Location: 3801 Wyandotte
Worship Times: Sunday 10:15 am &
Wednesday 7:15 pm

Status: Chartered On August 27, 1973
District: Mountains and Plains

SPRINGFIELD

Victory Arrow MCC

PO Box 2782, Springfield MO 65801
417-882-6188
Email VAMCC mapd@aol.com
Interim Pastor: Rev. Jane Carl
Clergy on Staff: Rev. Susan Deitrick
Meeting Location: 1953C South National
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

ST. LOUIS

MCC Of Greater St. Louis

1120 Dolman St., St. Louis MO 63104
314-231-9100
Email MCCStLouis@aol.com
Email bobgoss@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Bradley Wishon
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Jim Martin, Rev. Liz
Leech, Rev. Dr. Robert Goss
Worship Times: Sunday 9:30, 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Status: Chartered On April 21, 1974
District: Mountains and Plains

MCC Of Living Faith

6501 Wydown, Clayton MO 63105
314-726-2855
Email revinch@aol.com
Message Telephone: 314-926-6387
Pastor: Rev. Robert Finch
Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

SUNRISE BEACH

Ministry of Education and Writing

RR #2, Box 365-A, Sunrise Beach MO 65079
314-374-6479
Chair: Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart
Status: Special Work
District: Mountains and Plains

MONTANA

BILLINGS

Family Of God MCC

PO Box 23003, Billings MT 59104
406-245-7066
Email fogmcc@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Barbara MacLennan
Meeting Location: 645 Howard

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Mission
District: Mountains and Plains

GREAT FALLS

MCC Shepherd Of The Plains

PO Box 2162, Great Falls MT 59403
406-771-1070 Fax 406-771-1070
Email pcsmith@mcn.net
Pastor: Rev. Gina Hartung
Meeting Location: 1505 17th Ave. SW
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mountains and Plains

NEBRASKA

OMAHA

MCC Omaha

PO Box 3173, Omaha NE 68103-0173
402-345-2563
Pastor: Rev. C. Earle Lewis
Meeting Location: 819 South 22nd St.
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 10:30 am
Status: Chartered On January 27, 1974
District: Mountains and Plains

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS

MCC Las Vegas

1140 Almond Tree Lane #302
Las Vegas NV 89104
702-369-4380 Fax 702-369-3420
Pastor: Rev B. J. Mc Daniels
Meeting Location: Wesley United Methodist
Church, 2727 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas
Worship Times: Sunday 11:30 am & 6:00 pm
Status: Chartered On March 31, 1991
District: Southwest

RENO

MCC Of The Sierras

PO Box 21192, Reno NV 89515-1192
702-829-8602
Interim Pastor: Rev. Lynne Scarper
Meeting Location: Temple Sinai, 3405 Gulling Rd.
Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm
Status: Continuing Work
District: Northwest

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

NEW JERSEY

NEW BRUNSWICK

Christ The Liberator MCC

PO Box 10494, New Brunswick NJ 08906-0494
908-627-0092

Pastor: Rev. Arthur Runyan II

Meeting Location: 40 Davidson Rd., Piscataway

Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mid-Atlantic

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

Emmanuel MCC

PO Box 80192, Albuquerque NM 87108
505-268-0599

Email EMCC AbqNM@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Pat Langlois

Meeting Location: 341 Dallas NE

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Southwest

MCC Albuquerque

2404 San Mateo Pl NE, Albuquerque NM 87110
505-881-9088

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Fred Williams

Email MCCAabqNM@aol.com

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Chartered On June 20, 1982

District: Southwest

NEW YORK

ALBANY

MCC Of The Hudson Valley

40 Duncan Dr., Latham NY 12110
518-785-7941 Fax 518-785-7941

Email MCCHV@aol.com

Co-Pastors: Rev. Jill Farnham &
Rev. Karha Us

Meeting Location: 275 State St.

Worship Time: Sunday 1:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northeast

NEW YORK CITY

ICM Cristo Rey

64 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn NY 11205
718-522-5811

Pastor: Rev. Roberto Gonzalez

Meeting Location: Madison Ave. Baptist Church,
30 East 31st St., Manhattan

Worship Time: Sunday 5:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northeast

MCC New York

446 West 36th St., New York NY 10018
212-629-7440 Fax 212-629-7441

Email RvPatMCCNY@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Pat Bumgardner

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On April 23, 1972

District: Northeast

ROCHESTER

Open Arms MCC

302 N. Goodman Box 10, Rochester NY 14607
716-271-8478

Email RevRJH@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Ron Helms

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Northeast

NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE

MCC Asheville

PO Box 2359, Asheville NC 28802
704-232-0062

Pastor: Rev. Frank Scott

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church, 1 Edwin Pl.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

BOONE

MCC Of The High Country

PO Box 504, Boone NC 28607
704-297-5499

Worship Coordinator: Ms. Cindy Long

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church, King St.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

CHARLOTTE

MCC Charlotte

4037 East Independence Blvd. #726
Charlotte NC 28205
704-563-5810

Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Randy Votsch

Worship Times: Sunday 10:45 am & 7:30 pm;

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Chartered On July 1, 1981

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

New Life MCC

PO Box 221404, Charlotte NC 28222-1404
704-365-4955

Pastor:

Meeting Location: 234 Sharon Amity Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On November 1, 1992

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

GREENSBORO

St. Mary's MCC

PO Box 10943, Greensboro NC 27404
910-297-4054

Pastor: Rev. Christine Oscar 910-288-0242

Meeting Location: Resurrection Lutheran Church,
6720 W. Friendly Ave.

Worship Times: Sunday 7:00 pm (June-August);

11:00 am (September-May)

Status: Chartered On March 19, 1987

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

HICKORY

MCC Hickory

216 Second St. NW #208, Hickory NC 28601
704-324-1960

Pastor: Rev. Nancy Brown

Meeting Location: 109 11th Ave. NW

Worship Times: Sunday 7:00 pm &

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

RALEIGH

St. John's MCC

PO Box 5626, Raleigh NC 27650-5626
919-834-2611

Pastor: Rev. W. Wayne Lindsey

Meeting Location: 805 Glenwood Ave.

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:15 pm;

3rd Wednesday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On January 16, 1983

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

WILMINGTON

St. Jude's MCC

4326 Market St. Ste 170, Wilmington NC 28403
910-762-5833

Pastoral Leader: Ms. Kathy Beall

Meeting Location: 507 Castle St.

Meeting Time: Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

WINSTON-SALEM

MCC Winston-Salem

2315 Huff St. Winston-Salem NC 27107

910-784-8009

Pastor: Rev. Robert Darst

Meeting Location: 2315 Huff St.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

OHIO

CINCINNATI

New Spirit MCC

65 East Hollister St., Cincinnati OH 45241

513-241-8216

Email MCCcincy@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Bonnie Daniel

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Cass Weisman

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Great Lakes

COLUMBUS

New Creation MCC

PO Box 163173, Columbus OH 43216-3173

614-224-0314

Email MCCCBUS@aol.com

Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Margaret Hawk

Meeting Location: 787 E. Broad St.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Great Lakes

DAYTON

MCC Dayton Parish

PO Box 4021, Dayton OH 45401-4021

513-228-4031

Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Raeanna Biddle

Meeting Location: 1630 E. 5th St.

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & 6:30 pm;

Wednesday 6:30 pm

Status: Chartered On July 3, 1983

District: Great Lakes

TOLEDO

Good Samaritan Parish MCC

720 W. Delaware Ave., Toledo OH 43610

419-244-2124 Fax 419-478-8169

Email Toledo1MCC@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Elaine Thomas

Worship Times: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Great Lakes

CONGREGATIONS

OKLAHOMA

LAWTON

Great Plains MCC

PO Box 63, Lawton OK 73502

405-357-7899

Pastoral Leader: Ms. Carla Howerton

Meeting Location: 1415 SW Wisconsin

Worship Time: Sunday 5:00 pm

Status: Mission

District: South Central

OKLAHOMA CITY

Lighthouse MCC

PO Box 26221, Oklahoma City OK 73126-0221

405-942-2822

Pastor: Rev. John Nicholas

Clergy on Staff: Rev. Kaye Lee

Meeting Location: 3629 NW 19th St.

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am &

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

TULSA

Family Of Faith MCC

PO Box 382, Jenks OK 74037

918-622-1441

Pastor: Rev. Nancy Horvath

Meeting Location: 5451-E South Mingo

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

MCC Of Greater Tulsa

PO Box 581702, Tulsa OK 74158-1702

918-838-1715

Interim Pastoral Team: Board of Directors

Meeting Location: 1623 N. Maplewood

Worship Time: Sunday 10:45 am

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

OREGON

EUGENE

MCC Eugene

1414 Kincie, Eugene OR 97401-3737

541-345-5963

Pastor: Rev. Jodi Mekkers

Meeting Location: Near 23rd & Harris

Worship Time: Sunday 4:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

PORTLAND

MCC Portland

2400 Northeast Broadway, Portland OR 97232

503-281-8868 Fax 503-281-1233

Pastor: Rev. Roy Cole

Meeting Location: NE 24th & Broadway

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am &

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On January 9, 1977

District: Northwest

SisterSpirit

PO Box 9246, Portland OR 97207

503-294-0645

Pastor: Rev. Frodo Okulam

Meeting Location: Call For Location

Worship Times: Call For Times

Status: Special Ministry

District: Northwest

SALEM

Sweet Spirit MCC

PO Box 13969, Salem OR 97309-1969

503-363-6618

Interim Pastor: Rev. Teresa Nunn

Meeting Location: 1410 12th St. SE

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: Northwest

PENNSYLVANIA

BETHLEHEM

MCC Of The Lehigh Valley

1345 Linden #3, Allentown PA 18102

610-439-8755

Pastor: Rev. Peter Helt

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,

424 Center St., Bethlehem

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Mission

District: Mid-Atlantic

HARRISBURG

MCC Of The Spirit

PO Box 11543, Harrisburg PA 17108-1543

717-236-7387

Pastor: Rev. Eva O'Diam

Meeting Location: 2973 Jefferson St., between 6th & 7th Sts., above Division St.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mid-Atlantic

LANCASTER

Delores P. Berry Evangelistic Ministries

428 Longmeadow Rd., Lancaster PA 17601

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

717-560-1930

Director: Rev. Delores P. Berry

Status: Special Work

District: Mid-Atlantic

MOUNTVILLE

Vision Of Hope MCC

130 East Main St., Mountville PA 17554

717-285-9070

Pastor: Rev. Christen Chew

Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Mid-Atlantic

PHILADELPHIA

MCC Philadelphia

PO Box 8174, Philadelphia PA 19101-8174

215-563-6601

Interim Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Jeffrey Jordan

Meeting Location: 2125 Chestnut St.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Mission

District: Mid-Atlantic

PITTSBURGH

MCC Pittsburgh

4836 Ellsworth Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15213

412-683-2994

Pastor: Rev. Roberta Dunn

Meeting Location: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church,
Center and Morewood Sts.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On January 26, 1990

District: Mid-Atlantic

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON

MCC Charleston

2010 Hawthorne Dr. #10, Charleston SC 29406

803-747-6736 803 760-6114

Pastoral Leader: Ms. Mary Moore

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Chartered On November 1, 1991

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

COLUMBIA

Columbia MCC

PO Box 8753, Columbia SC 29202

803-256-2154

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Voelker

Meeting Location: 1111 Belleview #2

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

GREENVILLE

MCC Of Greenville

PO Box 6322, Greenville SC 29606-6322

864-233-0919

Pastor: Rev. Mick Hinson

Meeting Location: 37 East Hillcrest

Worship Times: Sunday 6:45 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

MYRTLE BEACH

MCC Myrtle Beach

PO Box 3032, Myrtle Beach SC 29578

803-448-9341

Pastoral Leader: Mr. Bill Oberst

Meeting Location: 700 H Seaboard St.

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY

MCC of the Black Hills

PO Box 7596, Rapid City SD 57709

605-394-0368

Interim Pastoral Leader: Ms. Joyce Naughton

Meeting Location: 727 Main St.

Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am

Status: Mission

District: Mountains and Plains

SIoux FALLS

St. Francis & St. Clare MCC

PO Box 266, Sioux Falls SD 57101-0266

605-332-3966

Pastor: Rev. Don Reusch

Meeting Location: 9th & Cliff Ave.

Worship Times: Sunday 5:30 pm,

(Summer 7:00 pm)

Status: Mission

District: Mountains and Plains

TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA

MCC Chattanooga

PO Box 80183, Chattanooga TN 37414

615-629-2737

Worship Coordinator: Mr. Chuck Lippy

Meeting Location: 1601 Foust

Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

CONGREGATIONS CONGREGATIONS

USA, TENNESSEE *Continued*

JOHNSON CITY

MCC Tri-Cities

PO Box 1612, Johnson City TN 37601-1612
615-926-4393

Interim Pastor: Rev. Bob Galloway
Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,
Exit 45 off US 23

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

KNOXVILLE

MCC Knoxville

PO Box 2343, Knoxville, TN 37901-2343
423-521-6546

Pastor: Rev. W. James Richards

Meeting Location: Church of the Savior,
934 Weisgarber Rd.

Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm

Status: Chartered On February 20, 1990

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

MEMPHIS

MCC Safe Harbor

PO Box 41691, Memphis TN 38174
901-458-0501

Interim Pastoral Leader: Mr. Greg Bullard

Meeting Location: 751 N. Trezevant

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: New Work

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

NASHVILLE

MCC Nashville

PO Box 60406, Nashville TN 37206
615-262-0922

Pastor:

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,
1808 Woodmont Blvd.

Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm

Status: Commissioned

District: Gulf Lower Atlantic

TEXAS

ABILENE

Exodus MCC Of Abilene

PO Box 3274, Abilene TX 79604
915-672-7922

Pastor: Rev. Sherry Hilliard

Meeting Location: 904 Walnut St.

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am & 6:00 pm

Status: Mission

District: South Central

AMARILLO

MCC Amarillo

PO Box 1276, Amarillo TX 79105-1276
806-372-4557

Pastor:

Clergy on Staff: Rev. Vicki Anderson

Meeting Location: 2123 South Polk

Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am

Status: Chartered On November 12, 1989

District: South Central

ARLINGTON

Trinity MCC

609 Truman St., Arlington TX 76011
817-265-5454

Pastor: Rev. Jo Crisco

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Jim Norwood

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Chartered On October 25, 1985

District: South Central

AUSTIN

MCC Austin

1117 Red River, Austin TX 78701
512-708-8002 Fax 512-708-8992

Email MCC Austin@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Martin

Meeting Location: 425 Woodward

Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Status: Chartered On October 1, 1978

District: South Central

CORPUS CHRISTI

MCC of Corpus Christi

1315 Craig St., Corpus Christi TX 78404-3330
512-882-8255

Pastor: Rev. Sandy O'Steen

Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am

Status: Commissioned

District: South Central

DALLAS

Cathedral Of Hope MCC

PO Box 35466, Dallas TX 75235
214-351-1901; 800-501-HOPE

Fax 214-351-6099

Pastor: Rev. Michael Piazza

Clergy On Staff: Rev. Paul Tucker, Rev. Carol West,

Rev. Irene Travis, Rev. Susan Heiskell,

Rev. Alice Jones

Meeting Location: 5910 Cedar Springs

Worship Times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 am &

6:30 pm; Wednesday 6:30 pm &

Saturday 6:30 pm

Status: Chartered On May 23, 1971

District: South Central

DENTON

Harvest MCC

5900 South Stemmons Fwy, Denton TX 76205
817-321-2332

Pastor: Rev. Colleen Darraugh
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Lou Ann Jordan
Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am
Status: Chartered On October 30, 1995
District: South Central

EL PASO

MCC El Paso

PO Box 3121, El Paso TX 79923
915-591-4155

Pastoral Leader: Rev'd Rick Schisler
Meeting Location: 9828 Montana Ste R
Worship Times: Sunday 6:00 pm &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

FT. WORTH

Agape MCC of Ft. Worth

PO Box 15247, Ft. Worth TX 76119
817-535-5002

Pastor: Rev. Brenda Hunt
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Lynn Johnson,
Rev. Belle Armstrong
Meeting Location: 4615 SE Loop 820,
Forest Hill
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am
Status: Chartered On April 13, 1980
District: South Central

HOUSTON

Maranatha Fellowship MCC

PO Box 667032, Houston TX 77266-7032
713-528-6756

Pastor: Rev. Janet Parker
Meeting Location: 3400 Montrose Ste. 600
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Chartered June 8, 1995
District: South Central

MCC Of The Resurrection

1919 Decatur St., Houston TX 77007-7636
713-861-9149 Fax 713-861-2520
Pastor: Rev. J. Dwayne Johnson
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Ralph Lasher,
Rev. Carolyn Mobley
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On April 20, 1975
District: South Central

LONGVIEW

MCC With A Vision

PO Box 1287, Longview TX 75606-1287
903-753-1501

Pastor: Rev. Mary Jean Hinsey
Meeting Location: 420 East Cotton St.
Worship Time: Sunday 10:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

LUBBOCK

MCC Lubbock

4501 University Ave., Lubbock TX 79413
806-792-5562 Fax 806-792-2218

Pastor: Rev. Renae Phillips
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm;
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Status: Chartered On October 25, 1985
District: South Central

SAN ANTONIO

MCC San Antonio

1136 West Woodlawn Ave.
San Antonio TX 78201-5791
210-734-0048

Interim Pastoral Team: Board of Directors
Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 &
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Status: Chartered On August 13, 1979
District: South Central

WACO

Central Texas MCC From The Heart

PO Box 22043, Waco TX 76702
817-752-5331

Pastor: Rev. Buddy Vess
Meeting Location: 1601 Clay
Worship Times: Sunday 10:45 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

WICHITA FALLS

Wichita Falls MCC

PO Box 8094, Wichita Falls TX 76307
817-322-4100

Pastor: Rev. Margaret Walker
Meeting Location: 1407 26th St.
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: South Central

CONGREGATIONS

UTAH

LOGAN

MCC Bridgerland

823 S. 600 E, Salt Lake City UT 84102
801-750-5026 Fax 801-621-1494
Pastoral Leader: Mr. Kelly Byrnes
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Bruce Barton
Meeting Location: 1315 E. 700 N
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Continuing Work
District: Northwest

SALT LAKE CITY

Sacred Light Of Christ MCC

PO Box 11321, Salt Lake City UT 84147-0321
801-595-0052
Pastor: Rev. Cindy Solomon
Meeting Location: 823 S. 600 E
Worship Time: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

MCC In Charlottesville

PO Box 3275 Univ Station
Charlottesville VA 22903
804-979-5206 Fax 804-979-5206
Pastor: Ms. Karen Dickman
Meeting Location: 717 Rugby Rd.
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mid-Atlantic

FALLS CHURCH

MCC Of Northern Virginia (NOVA)

7245 Lee Highway, Falls Church VA 22046
703-532-0992 Fax 703-532-6650
Pastor: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Tom Bohache
Meeting Location: 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Chartered On May 3, 1987
District: Mid-Atlantic

NORFOLK

New Life MCC Of Tidewater

PO Box 1026, Norfolk VA 23501-1026
804-855-8450
Pastor: Rev. Carol Wier
Meeting Location: 1530 Johnston Rd.
Worship Times: Sunday 10:30 am
Status: Chartered On October 30, 1983
District: Mid-Atlantic

RICHMOND

MCC Richmond

2501 Park Ave., Richmond VA 23220
804-353-9477
Pastor:
Worship Times: Sunday 9:00, 10:45 am & 6:30 pm
Status: Chartered
District: Mid-Atlantic

ROANOKE

MCC Of The Blue Ridge

PO Box 20495, Roanoke VA 24018
504-344-4444
Pastoral Leader: Rev. Dr. William Rethford
Meeting Location: 2015 Grandin SW
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON

BELLINGHAM

Song Of Messiah MCC

PO Box 4389, Bellingham WA 98227
360-671-1172
Pastor: Rev. Anne Hulse
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Sue Stackhouse
Meeting Location: 929B North State St.
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

BREMERTON

Hope of Christ MCC

PO Box 4551, Bremerton WA 98312-0398
360-792-2956
Pastor: Rev. Tam Schult
Meeting Location: Unitarian Church
Worship Time: Sunday 7:00 pm
Status: Parish Extension
District: Northwest

LACEY

Eternal Light MCC

PO Box 8507, Lacey WA 98509-8507
206-352-8157
Pastor: Rev. Clain Lust
Meeting Location: ELMCC, 219 B. St., Tumwater
Worship Time:
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

RICHLAND

River Of Life MCC

PO Box 1678, Richland WA 99352-0059
509-946-5250
Pastor: Rev. Julie Two Suess-Pierce

Meeting Location: Unitarian Church,
619 West Albany, Kennewick
Worship Time: Sunday 6:30 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

SEATTLE

A. Austin Amerine Retreat Center

15044 Bothell Way NE, Seattle WA 98155
206-855-0414
Status: Special Ministry
District: Northwest

MCC Seattle

1202 East Pike St. #930, Seattle WA 98122-3934
206-325-2421
Pastor: Rev. Cheri Starchman
Clergy on Staff: Rev. Brenda Blizzard
Meeting Location: 2101 14th Ave. S
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 6:00 pm;
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Status: Chartered On August 6, 1972
District: Northwest

SPOKANE

Emmanuel MCC

PO Box 769, Spokane WA 99210
509-838-0085
Pastor: Rev. Linda Laster
Meeting Location: 407 W. 4th
Worship Time: Sunday 10:30 am
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

TACOMA

New Heart MCC

2150 S. Cushman, Tacoma WA 98405
206-272-2382
Pastor: Rev. Janice Skaggs
Clergy On Staff: Rev. Roberta Booth,
Rev. Lynn Hallet
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am &
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

VANCOUVER

MCC Of The Gentle Shepherd

PO Box 5094, Vancouver WA 98668
360-695-1480
Pastor: Rev. Teresa Nunn
Meeting Location: 4505 E. 18th St.
Worship Time: Sunday 6:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Northwest

YAKIMA

A Christian Community MCC

401 S. 8th Ave., Yakima WA 98902
Pastoral Leader: Rev. Jane Newall
Meeting Location: 401 South 8th Ave.
Worship Time: Sunday 2:00 pm
Status: Parish Extension
District: Northwest

WEST VIRGINIA

MCC Appalachian Ministries

112 Narcissus Rd.
Ruckersville VA 22968
804-985-2499
Director: Ms. Becky Dickman
Status: Special Work

WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY

Angels Of Hope MCC

614 Forest St., Green Bay WI 54302
414-432-0830
Pastor: Rev. Ken Hull, Sr.
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am
Status: Mission
District: Great Lakes

MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee MCC

PO Box 1421, Milwaukee WI 53201-1421
414-332-9995
Email ahauth@post.its.mcw.edu
Pastor: Rev. Lew Broyles
Meeting Location: 924 E. Juneau
Worship Times: Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Status: Commissioned
District: Great Lakes

CLERGY

DIRECTORY OF UFMCC CLERGY

CLERGY

CLERGY

CLERGY

Rev. Arlene J. Ackerman	Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator, Mountville PA
Rev. Leslie K. Addison	Assistant District Coordinator (Northwest), Oakland CA
Rev. Clement I. Akanazu	MCC Orodo, Owerri, Nigeria
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Rev. Vicki Anderson	MCC Amarillo TX
Rev. Elder Charlie R. Arehart	Sunrise Beach MO
Rev. Belle Armstrong	Agape MCC of Ft. Worth TX
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Rev. Mel Bailey	Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah GA
Rev. Beverley Baptiste	Assistant District Coordinator (Mountains and Plains-Canada), Edmonton AB, Canada
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Rev. Elder Roy Birchard	San Francisco CA
Rev. Caroline Blanco	Centre De L'Esprit Libérateur MCC, Paris, France
Rev. Brenda Blizzard	MCC Seattle WA
Rev. Thomas Bohache	MCC of Northern Virginia (NOVA), Falls Church VA
Rev. Roberta Booth	New Heart MCC, Tacoma WA
Rev. Sherre Boothman	(Retired), Virginia Beach VA
Rev. Vera Isabella Bourne	Northern Rivers Network MCC, S. Lismore NSW, Australia
Rev. Wayne Bradley	Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago IL
Rev. Andy Braunston	Manchester, England
Rev. Dexter S. Brecht	Vieux Carre MCC, New Orleans LA
Rev. James T. Brock	Joy MCC, Orlando FL
Rev. Lea D. Brown	MCC San Francisco CA
Rev. Nancy K. Brown	MCC Hickory NC
Rev. Lewis A. Broyles	MCC Milwaukee WI
Rev. Donna Bruner	MCC Louisville KY
Rev. Charlene Buck	Victory Fellowship MCC, Shreveport LA

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 Rev. Houston M. Burnside Jr. MCC San Diego CA

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 Rev. J. M. Rusty Carlson (Retired), Spokane WA
 Rev. Lee J. Carlton Chosen Generation Ministries, Pensacola FL
 Rev. Michelle Carmody New Creation MCC, Everett WA
 Rev. Richard Carson First MCC of Atlanta GA
 Rev. Teena Carpenter King of Peace, St. Petersburg FL
 Rev. Steve H. Carson MCC San Francisco CA
 Rev. Katie Cassidy Phoenix AZ
 Rev. Dana L. Cagle Glendale CA
 Rev. Gina L. Chapman Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier CA
 Rev. Christen K. Chew Vision of Hope MCC, Lancaster PA
 Rev. Reid L. Christensen First MCC of Atlanta GA
 Rev. Robert Clark MCC of the Good Shepherd,
 Ermington (Sydney) NSW, Australia
 Rev. Don Clarke Joie De Vivre, Baton Rouge LA
 Rev. Jane Clarke MCC East London, England
 Rev. Roy Cole MCC Portland OR
 Rev. Cliff R. Connors MCC of the Good Shepherd,
 Ermington (Sydney) NSW, Australia
 Rev. Jo Crisco Trinity MCC, Arlington TX
 Rev. Carlos Cruz Port Charlotte FL
 Rev. Robert J. Cunningham (Retired), New Hope MCC, Santa Rosa CA

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 Rev. Dee L. Dale MCC Louisville KY
 Rev. Julie Daley (Retired), MCC Adelaide SA, Australia
 Rev. Bonnie Daniel New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati OH
 Rev. Colleen Darraugh Harvest MCC, Denton TX
 Rev. Robert C. Darst New Life MCC, Charlotte NC
 Rev. Judy K. Davenport Southeast District Coordinator, Tampa FL
 Rev. Jorge Delgado North Hollywood CA
 Rev. Teri DeMarco Fayetteville AR
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 Rev. Susan W. Deitrick Mt. View MO
 Rev. Shane Desautels Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago IL
 Rev. Lorane M. Dick MCC Los Angeles CA
 Rev. Yvette Dube MCC in the Country, San Diego CA
 Rev. Karen M. Ducham MCC Tampa FL
 Rev. Celena M. Duncan MCC Johnson County, Shawnee KS
 Rev. Roberta J. Dunn MCC Pittsburgh PA
 Rev. Jim N. Dykes (Retired), MCC Sydney NSW, Australia

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 Rev. Alan Eddington Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco CA
 Rev. Ken Ehrke Open Door MCC, Boyds MD
 Rev. Diane L. Elble Fresno CA
 Rev. Cathy A. Elliott SunCoast Cathedral, Venice FL
 Rev. Michael E. England MCC Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo CA
 Rev. Paul C. Evans MCC Topeka KS

Rev. Robert Falls (Retired), Evansville IN
 Rev. Jill G. Farnham MCC of the Hudson Valley, Latham NY
 Rev. David S. Farrell UFMCC, San Diego CA
 Rev. Robert L. Finch MCC Living Faith, Clayton MO
 Rev. Joseph C. Fischer Syracuse NY
 Rev. M. Diane Fisher Free to Be MCC, Belleville ON, Canada
 Rev. Felicia A. Fontaine (Retired), Huntsville AL
 Rev. Grant L. Ford Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale FL
 Rev. James L. Forsythe MCC of the Rockies, Denver CO
 Rev. Karen A. Foster MCC San Francisco CA
 Rev. John N. Fowler MCC Melbourne VIC, Australia
 Rev. Barbara L. Freeman MCC of the Rock, Little Rock AR
 Rev. Tony Freeman MCC of the Rockies, Denver CO
 Rev. Thomas Friedhoff Basisgemeinde MCC, Hamburg, Germany

Rev. Robert G. Galloway MCC Johnson City TN
 Rev. Tomas Garcia ICM Guadalajara, Mexico
 Rev. Elder Darlene C. Garner MCC of Northern Virginia (NOVA), Falls Church VA
 Rev. Ron R. Gee MCC of the Rockies, Denver CO
 Rev. Joseph H. Gilbert For All the Saints MCC, Los Angeles CA
 Rev. Elder John W. Gill King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg FL
 Rev. David Gillentine MCC of the Pomona Valley, Claremont CA
 Rev. Judy F. Gingerich Ventura CA
 Rev. James A. Glyer (Retired), MCC San Francisco CA
 Rev. Roberto O. Gonzales ICM New York NY
 Rev. William Gordon Northern Lights MCC, Augusta ME
 Rev. Robert Goss MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis MO
 Rev. Paul Graetz All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis MN
 Rev. Arthur F. Griffin (Retired), Kingston ON, Canada

Rev. Jon Haack Dallas TX
 Rev. Lynn M. Hallett (Retired), New Heart MCC, Tacoma WA
 Rev. Shelley A. Hamilton First MCC of Kansas, Wichita KS
 Rev. John Hankins All Saints MCC of Atlanta GA
 Rev. Marion C. Harrison MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach FL
 Rev. Stewart Harrison Bournemouth, England
 Rev. Jean R. Hart Lavender Road MCC, Santa Cruz CA
 Rev. Gina Hartung MCC Shepherd of the Plains, Great Falls MT
 Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey MCC Los Angeles CA
 Rev. Hal Hasse Hazelcrest IL

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 Rev. Barbara Haynes MCC Los Angeles CA; Free Spirit MCC, Frontera CA
 Rev. Elder Wilhelmina A. Hein MCC Christchurch, New Zealand
 Rev. Susan Heiskell Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
 Rev. T. Edward Helms Norfolk VA
 Rev. Ronnie Helms Open Arms MCC, Rochester NY
 Rev. Peter A. Helt MCC of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown PA
 Rev. Gail Hicks Falls Church VA
 Rev. Sherry Hilliard Exodus MCC of Abilene TX
 Rev. Mary Jean Hinsey MCC with a Vision, Longview TX
 Rev. Maurice E. Hinson MCC Greenville SC
 Rev. Robert B. Hogg MCC San Francisco CA
 Rev. Ivor Holmans MCC Brisbane QLD, Australia
 Rev. Michael L. Horn MCC Auckland, New Zealand
 Rev. Nancy Jo Horvath Family of Faith MCC, Tulsa OK
 Rev. Elizabeth A. Hulse Song of Messiah MCC, Bellingham WA
 Rev. Ken Hull, Jr. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville FL
 Rev. Ken Hull, Sr. Angels of Hope MCC, Green Bay WI
 Rev. Brenda J. Hunt Agape MCC of Ft. Worth TX

Rev. Polly E. Ireland MCC Chattanooga TN
 Rev. Jack E. Isbell Diablo Valley MCC, Walnut Creek CA

Rev. Ruth Jensen Jacksonville FL
 Rev. C. Lynn Johnson Agape MCC of Ft. Worth TX
 Rev. J. Dwayne Johnson MCC of the Resurrection, Houston TX
 Rev. Robert Johnson (Retired), First MCC of Atlanta GA
 Rev. Alice Jones Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
 Rev. Lou Ann Jordan Harvest MCC, Denton TX

Rev. Louis F. Kavar MCC South Beach, Miami Beach FL
 Rev. Gustave G. Kein Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota FL
 Rev. Sherry L. Kennedy SunCoast Cathedral MCC, Venice FL
 Rev. Ken Kerr Vancouver WA
 Rev. M. Evelyn Kinser (Retired), MCC Los Angeles CA
 Rev. Edward R. Knisley PhD Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage AK
 Rev. Tim Koch Boston MA
 Rev. Jan D. Kross Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City MO

Rev. Dee Lamb (Retired), Houston TX
 Rev. Wallace E. Lanchester (Retired), Angels Among Us MCC, Mt. Vernon, WA
 Rev. Patricia A. Langlois Emmanuel MCC, Albuquerque NM
 Rev. Charles W. Larsen (Retired), Minneapolis MN
 Rev. Ralph C. Lasher MCC of the Resurrection, Houston TX
 Rev. Linda Laster Emmanuel MCC, Spokane WA
 Rev. Evan LeBlanc MCC of Windsor, Windsor ON, Canada

Rev. Kaye A. Lee Lighthouse MCC, Oklahoma City OK
 Rev. Mark Lee MCC Family in Christ, Fort Collins CO
 Rev. Liz Leech MCC of Greater St. Louis MO
 Rev. Patricia J. Leffler Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana CA
 Rev. Alfonso Leija ICM Renovacion, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico
 Rev. Roy T. Lenington Omaha NE
 Rev. Denise Leopold MCC of the Open Arms, Manhattan KS
 Rev. Randy A. Lester MCC of the Central Coast, Grover Beach CA
 Rev. James H. Lewey (Retired), St. Louis MO
 Rev. C. Earle Lewis MCC Omaha NE
 Rev. Gilbert H. Lincoln (Retired), First MCC of Atlanta GA
 Rev. Wayne Lindsey St. John's MCC, Raleigh NC
 Rev. Franny Little Bear Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC, Honolulu HI
 Rev. Helene Loper MCC Cornerstone, Mobile AL
 Rev. Elder Louis Loynes (Retired), Los Angeles CA
 Rev. Clain E. Lust Eternal Light MCC, Lacey WA
 Rev. James M. Lynch Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield IL
 Rev. Jeremiah Lyon New Hope MCC, Fredericton NB, Canada

Rev. Susan L. Mabey Christos MCC, Toronto ON, Canada
 Rev. Maureen Mackey Las Vegas NV
 Rev. Barbara L. MacLennan Family of God MCC, Billings MT
 Rev. Sylvanus O. Maduka MCC Ezinachi, Okigwe, Nigeria
 Rev. Marilyn R. Marr Indianapolis IN
 Rev. James M. Martin MCC of Greater St. Louis MO
 Rev. Kenneth T. Martin MCC Austin TX
 Rev. Phillip Mathews MCC Washington DC
 Rev. Fran Mayes Tree of Life MCC, Ypsilanti MI
 Rev. Judith Magnard-Goodwin Richmond VA
 Rev. LisaDawn McCabe (Retired), Jesus MCC, Indianapolis IN
 Rev. Gordon R. McCoy Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago IL
 Rev. B.J. McDaniels MCC Las Vegas NV
 Rev. George McDermott (Retired), Worchester MA
 Rev. Marguerite McKenzie Springfield OR
 Rev. Jeremy McLeod MCC of Boulder CO
 Rev. James McManus Norton, England
 Rev. Marianne McPherson MCC Huntsville AL
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 Rev. Richard R. Mickley (Retired), Manila, Philippines
 Rev. David W. Miller Whosoever MCC of Brighton & Hove, England
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 Rev. Carolyn J. Mobley MCC of the Resurrection, Houston TX
 Rev. Michael Moffatt MCC London, England
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Rev. James W. Morgan Jr.	Ogden UT
Rev. Phyllis Motta	MCC of Paducah KY
Rev. Andre Muller	Reforming Church, an MCC, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa
Rev. Eleanor C. Nealy	South Central District Coordinator, Austin TX
Rev. Jay B. Neely	Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coordinator, Atlanta GA
Rev. Jill Nelson	Tamarac FL
Rev. Jane E. Newall	A Christian Community MCC, Yakima WA
Rev. John E. Nicholas	Lighthouse MCC, Oklahoma City OK
Rev. Michael J. Nikolaus	Miami FL
Rev. G. Penny Nixon	MCC San Francisco CA
Rev. June Norris	(Retired), Erie CO
Rev. James E. Norwood	(Retired), Trinity MCC, Arlington TX
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Rev. Eva O'Diam	MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg PA
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Rev. Sandy O'Steen	MCC of Corpus Christi TX
Rev. Jeffrey Padgett	Divine Peace MCC, Hazel Park MI
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Rev. Kathleen Patrick	Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier CA
Rev. A. Edward Paul	Denton TX
Rev. Angela Peace	Spiritsong MCC, Little Rock AR
Rev. Betty Pedersen	Metropolitan Community Homes, Inc., San Francisco CA
Rev. Don E. Pederson	Southwest District Coordinator, Oxnard CA
Rev. David Pelletier	Maui HI
Rev. Eduard E. Perry	Seattle WA
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry	UFMCC, Los Angeles CA
Rev. Marcia Perryman	Simcoe County MCC, Barrie ON, Canada
Rev. Renae S. Phillips	MCC Lubbock TX
Rev. Susan Ann Phillips	Rosemount MN
Rev. Michael S. Piazza	Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
Rev. Joseph F. Piccari	MCC at California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo CA; Grace Chapel MCC, Santa Barbara CA
Rev. Stephen Pieters	UFMCC, Los Angeles CA
Rev. Chadwick K. Pifer	(Retired-effective 1 Sept 96) MCC San Jose CA
Rev. Kenneth E. Pilot	Assistant District Coordinator (Mountains and Plains-USA), St. Louis MO
Rev. Elder Richard Ploen	(Retired), Los Angeles CA

Rev. Cathrine Porter	MCC Elizabethtown KY
Rev. Barbara J. Price	Spirit of Hope MCC Kansas City MO
Rev. Dusty Pruitt	MCC San Diego CA
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Rev. Nancy L. Radclyffe	(Retired), Toronto ON, Canada
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Rev. Donald Reusch	St. Francis & St. Clare MCC, Sioux Falls SD
Rev. James Richards	MCC Knoxville TN
Rev. Sandi L. Robinson	Samaritan Institution for Religious Studies, Lewisville TX
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Rev. Arthur C. Runyan II	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick NJ
Rev. Jodi Safier	(Retired), River City MCC, Sacramento CA
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Rev. Iris Sagggers	MCC Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
Rev. Joan M. Saniuk	Ventura CA
Rev. Susan Sawyer-Hilty	Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Beach CA
Rev. Frank Scarlett	Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco CA
Rev. Lynne E. Scarper	MCC of the Sierras, Reno NV
Rev. Richard Schisler	El Paso TX
Rev. Joe Scholtes	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg FL
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Rev. Frank W. Scott	MCC Asheville NC
Rev. Jerry L. Seay	Trinity MCC, Gainesville FL
Rev. Julia M. Seward	MCC Key West FL
Rev. Doreen Shambrook	Bexley, Kent, England
Rev. Renne L. Shawver	St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers FL
Rev. Glenna Shepherd	Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain GA
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Rev. Rob Shivers	(Retired), Lancaster CA
Rev. Candace R. Shultis	MCC Washington DC
Rev. Andy T. Sidden	Spirit of Life MCC, Holiday FL
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 Rev. Jorge G. Sosa ICM Reconciliacion, Mexico City DF, Mexico
 Rev. Sue A. Stackhouse Song of Messiah MCC, Bellingham WA
 Rev. Coni D. Staff (Leave of Absence), San Francisco CA
 Rev. Cheri L. Starchman MCC Seattle WA
 Rev. Stephen Steele Hope MCC, Daytona Beach FL
 Rev. Beverly Stephenson Eglise Du Saint Esprit MCC, Lafayette LA
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 Rev. Gillian J. Storey MCC North London, England
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 Rev. Julie Two Suess-Pierce River of Life MCC, Richland WA
 Rev. Sharna Sutherin Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco CA
 Rev. Tyrone P. Sweeting MCC at Boise ID

Rev. Elder Hong Kia Tan MCC North London, England
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 Rev. Steven M. Torrence MCC Key West FL
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 Rev. Peter C. Trabaris Joy of Life MCC, Waukegan IL
 Rev. Irene S. Travis Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
 Rev. Paul A. Tucker Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
 Rev. Sandra Turnbull MCC Long Beach CA
 Rev. La Paula Turner Memphis TN

Rev. James E. Ulisse (Medical Leave) Zion IL
 Rev. Alice K. Urbanowicz New Hope! MCC, Santa Rose CA
 Rev. Karha Us MCC of the Hudson Valley, Latham NY

Rev. B. Rex Van Alstine Lexington's MCC, Lexington KY
 Rev. Karon C. VanGelder Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale IL
 Rev. Buddy Vess Waco TX
 Rev. Claudia L. Vierra-Allen Mother River Spirit, Oakland CA
 Rev. Yolanda S. Vierra-Allen Mother River Spirit, Oakland CA
 Rev. Elder Richard C. Vincent (Retired), Dallas TX
 Rev. Patricia Voelker MCC Columbia SC

Rev. Gary J. Walker Assistant District Coordinator (Australian District),
 Alexandria NSW, Australia
 Rev. Margaret Walker Wichita Falls TX

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Rev. Cass Weisman	New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati OH
Rev. Carol A. West	Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas TX
Rev. Mona West	Samaritan College USA, Lewisville TX
Rev. Marcie N. Wexler	Eastern Canadian District Coordinator, Toronto ON
Rev. Frankye A. White	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville FL
Rev. Elder Jean A. White	London, England
Rev. Mel White	UFMCC, Ennis TX
Rev. Paul Whiting	Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines IA
Rev. Larry D. Whitsell	San Jose CA
Rev. Barry A. Wichmann	New Life MCC, Berkeley CA
Rev. Carol Wier	New Life MCC of Tidewater, Norfolk VA
Rev. Dawn Wilder	MCC Los Angeles CA
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Rev. Fred C. Williams	MCC Albuquerque NM
Rev. Mark Williams	Omaha NE
Rev. Sandy K. Williams	Pasadena CA
Rev. Gary L. Wilson	MCC San Jose CA
Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson	MCC Los Angeles CA
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Rev. Robert S. Wolfe	(Retired), Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale FL
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Rev. Karen Ziegler (Retired), Durham NC

Inactive clergy:

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 Rev. Janine Dietz
 Rev. William Lowell
 Rev. Tere Roderick
 Rev. Ian Westby
 Rev. Howard Williams

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